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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

KNOLL DEPORTATION--Canberra--Suspected Baader-Meinhoff terrorist, Hans-Peter Knoll, has been deported from Australia. The Immigration Minister, Mr MacPhee, announced the deportation in a one-paragraph statement last night. Knoll was arrested in a police raid on a Sydney house on Saturday and charged with being an illegal immigrant. He was deported yesterday to West Germany. [Text]
[Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Mar 81 p 3]

CSO: 4220

GUJARAT MINISTER THREATENS BAN ON RSS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Bandhinagar, March 10. The home minister, Mr Prabodh Raval, today blamed the RSS for fomenting violence in the state and declared that the government would not hesitate to ban the organisation.

He told the Gujarat assembly that the government had conclusive proof that the RSS was behind the current anti-reservation agitation. The RSS and the BJP were engineering violence in the state to destabilise the Solanki ministry, he said.

In a spirited 30-minute reply to the debate on the budgetary demands pertaining to the home department, Mr Raval said the government had also come to know that the leaders of the Janata party and the BJP were mainly instrumental in creating violence and engineering assaults on Harijans in Mehsana district. The frustrated opposition leaders were trying to incite violence to achieve their "narrow and parochial" political ends.

Ugly Turn

Strongly refuting the charge of the opposition leaders that the state government was making political use of the national security act to "silence" its opponents, he explained why the government was forced to invoke the NSA. He said that attempts were being made to disrupt public life and to hold the people to "ransom" by giving frequent calls for bandhs.

Mr Raval said that violence had taken such an ugly turn that the police had to open fire on 75 occasions, resulting in the death of 21 people. Three more people died in stone-throwing and five as a result of stabbing. Two policemen were killed in stone-throwing and public and private property worth Rs 35 lakhs was damaged.

Even after these incidents, political organisations, operating behind the scene, were fanning the fire of caste hatred. In such a situation, the government was compelled to invoke the national security act.

Congratulating the police on using minimum force to deal with the situation, Mr Raval said the organisers of bandhs and strikes wanted many more people to be killed so that their agitation could gain momentum.

Mr Raval, who made the BJP the special target of his criticism, said this party had adopted double standards and it had no moral courage to come out openly against the agitation. While the party's national leaders were talking about a "national consensus" on the reservation issue, its state leaders were quietly fanning the fire of casteism.

Mr Raval refuted the charge that some Congress(I) leaders were responsible for the agitation and said that the Congress(I) was united on countering the agitation.

CSO: 4220

GNP FORECAST PROVING TO BE EXAGGERATED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 13

[Article by K.K. Sharma]

[Text] New Delhi, March 12--The forecast that the Gross National Product would rise by 6.5% in 1980-81 made less than a month ago by the Government in the annual economic survey, is already proving to be exaggerated.

The hope was based partly on the expectation that industrial production would rise by 4% during the year. Official figures now available indicate this will not happen.

In the calendar year, 1980, industrial production rose by a bare 0.6% over the previous year. To register a 4% rise in the financial year would require a massive spurt in production from January to March, and this is highly unlikely.

The figures for industrial production also show that the Ministry of Industry has been grossly exaggerating the performance of the industrial sector. It had said recently that the rise in production in December, 1980, over the same month of the previous year was 10%. Official figures show the rise in just 7.3%. [as published]

Industrial production has been virtually stagnant for the past three years. The index for 1978 was 147.8 and it rose to just 149.5 in 1979. In 1980, the rise was again nominal with the index rising to only 150.4.

The bleak performance of the industrial sector is due mainly to infrastructural constraints such as shortage of power, transport bottlenecks and coal scarcity. These together led to large unutilized capacity in almost all units.

The poor industrial performance is bound to affect the country's export performance since this is dependent on production. The deficit in the balance of trade can, therefore, be expected to grow.

The economic survey for 1980-81 made the forecast for the rise in industrial production on the basis of figures available up to November. Figures up to December, now available, show that industrial production in the first nine months of 1980-81 rose by just 2% over the same period in the previous year.

Indications are that there has been some improvement in infrastructure in the last couple of months, but this is unlikely to compensate for the losses in earlier months of the current financial year.

Growth in GNP will now have to depend mainly on agricultural production which has increased significantly because of a bountiful monsoon last year. Nevertheless, reports of drought from some parts of the country are now coming in and these could affect rabi production. If the foodgrain production estimate of 132 million tons in 1980-81 proves to be wrong, there will be a still lower rise in GNP in the year.

CSO: 4220

CIVIL SERVANTS SAID TO IDENTIFY WITH REGIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 81 p 8

[Article by Jyoti Jafa: "A Question of Loyalty: Officers Under Regional Pressure"]

[Text] Among the many threats to national integration, Jyoti Jafa rates high the divided loyalties of civil servants who are posted in, or seconded to, their home States. Having studied the problem in the north-east at first hand. Mrs Jafa says that pressures are strongest in the region and that local officials are subjected to "constant criticism and frequent interference from Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, family and friends." In view of the north-east's socio-cultural affinities, the Centre can counter the danger, she says, only by restoring the administrative impartiality and detachment of British times.

The Union Home Ministry has been rather imprudent in its posting practices. Who could have imagined that a custodian of the law might be considered an internal security risk? The case of Hiranya Bhattacharya, the arrested police officer, is unique because the situation in Assam, and indeed throughout the north-east, is unique.

The region's problems are not confined to law and order, social tensions, transition pains and acute shortages which trigger violence, but a combination of all this plus separatism too. Experienced observers and informed sources believe that the Assam agitation was organized by the administration. In Meghalaya too, last year's spurt of violence was attributed to the connivance of certain district officers with well known protribal affiliations. The Metei, Mizo and Naga insurgencies have been helped, not hindered, by local field officers, retired civil servants, and former security personnel, including disbanded soldiers.

A study of posting details in Assam and the tribal States shows a clear policy pattern. Regional chauvinists have been placed in the direct chain of command, while others have been isolated in innocuous jobs. Under these conditions, it is not surprising that internal security has been repeatedly threatened and the army called out to bolster civil power. Attempts to find solutions and restore

normalcy have repeatedly failed because our leaders are more interested in blaming each other than in finding positive answers for the future.

Political Causes

Government officers are not public leaders and it is not for them to identify with political causes or mass movements. But the system makes it hard for them to stay neutral. It was a time-honoured administrative practice to avoid home district postings for all-India service officers so that official impartiality remained unquestioned. Today, so many former north-eastern districts are States, and the official trend is to serve in one's own region. In conflict-prone areas, a local officer may try his best to play fair and rise above parochialism, but his efforts are often nullified by the fact that he is identified with some regional faction, tribe, or linguistic group. There is constant criticism and frequent interference from Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, family and friends.

The civil servant is given no elbow room to function freely. It is easier to join the natives, so to speak for that is where the rewards lie. Outsiders also feel frustrated in this environment, and lose their spirit of dedication and fair play. All norms of public and private life have been thrown overboard in recent years by the race of guardians. This proves that sustaining power is sadly lacking in today's administrative system. It has become natural for judges, police officers, bureaucrats, and politicians to identify with regional interests. Ancient class and caste ties cannot be broken by the mere addition of three capital letters after a name. Most central service officers therefore manage home State postings or deputations, develop regional interests, submit to pressure groups for various reasons, and pursue their careers without being unduly concerned about larger national interests.

Everyone expects the all-India services to be above parochialism. When the states were reorganized on a linguistic basis in 1957, Parliament decreed that at least half the cadre posts in the IAS or IPS should be reserved for direct recruits from other States. But this sensible rule is no longer followed. Promotions from the State services have been raised to 33 per cent. If a person misses home State allotment, he wangles a job there on deputation. Even Chief Ministers do not hesitate to ask the Union Home Ministry for officers by name. Unwanted outsiders are eased out of posts that matter, and often shunted off to Delhi or sent for training abroad. There are two schools of thought even amongst administrators about this trend. One believes that locals can do a better job as they are committed to regional welfare, have a better understanding of local needs and issues, and can communicate better with the public since they speak the language more fluently than any outsider. The second school believes that officers function best where local pulls and pressures do not influence their decisions. Impartiality can be guaranteed only where there are no vested interests. Tradition and service rules oblige young entrants to learn the State language, failing which their promotion and increments are held up. Most officers take pride in picking up other languages and dialects.

The British did a jolly good job of running this country because they understood India's peculiar parochial needs, yet remained above them. Official patronage was not allowed to encourage public disorder. Indian members of the civil service were not sent to their home districts on principle. Although home State postings were common, there was little weightage attached to a Gujarati serving in Gujarat or a Bengali serving in Bengal because the number of native ICS and I.P. officers was small, while the number of British officials was large. Parochial tendencies were effectively countered from above.

Self-Interest

But the equation changed with time; and since 1970 the all-India services too have fallen prey to the provincial upsurge. The romantic Mughal or British concept of carrying the burden of empire has given way to self-interest. Policemen and civil servants have to function under a popularly elected Ministry, and the cost of defiance is too heavy for the average officer. No politician hesitates to use the State machinery for personal and party benefit. Under existing conditions, it is much more difficult for a local man to resist demands because he is much more vulnerable to local pressures. And even the most conscientious officer has an Achilles' heel.

All three organs of the law and order machinery--lower, supervisory and judicial--have deteriorated because alien idealistic concepts are unsuited to Indian conditions; and nothing meaningful has yet been devised to replace the existing system of public administration. The police is still an instrument of awe, but the separation of the judiciary and executive has eroded civil authority. Doubts about this should be removed by the ever-increasing use of the armed forces for law and order duties.

Under the British, the law and order machinery was strictly controlled by an impartial magistracy which knew the public pulse through its manifold functions, frequent rural touring, and system of public "darbars" which gave the humblest petitioner direct access to the district magistrate or sub-divisional head. These officers were also chief magistrates with judicial powers. The imperial magistracy was an impartial and financially secure elitist group. The system worked, and gave to this country a very firm and fair administration. Police failings are inherent in the law enforcement and crime control functions, but the situation can be controlled if the judiciary and executive are re-aligned once more.

But in the north-east, a major policy decision is needed if things are to improve. The Home Ministry must review its system of postings. It is not enough to entrust administration to field officers who are qualified troubleshooters. Nor can political manoeuvring from Delhi quell dissidents, guerrillas, and militant radicals if people in the administration aid, abet and advise them. The malady of protectionism and parochialism is widespread, but it does not carry the same threat to the existing federal system as do attitudes in the north-east.

National Interest

What is the remedy? One immediate answer is to put an end to deputations to home States from other cadres. And no extension of existing deputation periods either. It may not be possible even in the larger national interest to bifurcate already existing cadres on the basis of retaining outsiders and sending away sons of the soil. In fact it would be easier to scrap the all-India services and begin again from scratch. But the rule of home State allotments could become the exception. Did not the Union Government find during the recent agitation that non-Assamese officers implemented their orders, while many local recruits sided with the movement? Are not the judiciary, the IAS, the IPS, and the provincial civil services all working for the collective goal of just and orderly governance? But regional pressures often defeat these aims. Our rulers must decide what they want--a feudal revival or a progressive socialist nation with shared goals and resources. Policy decisions cannot be taken for one particular region, but the danger of separatism in those fringe States that are closer in sociocultural terms to the Mon Khymer belt of South-east Asia than to the Indian heartland cannot be exaggerated if recent history is anything to go by.

Suppose the Centre decides to allow deputations away from the north-east, then who would remain in the region? Most outsiders would prefer the easier option; and as one senior civil servant put it, "Have a bad time back home rather than here". Impartiality and broad-based vision require a certain detachment, and the logical answer would be to shield officers from local pressures. This can be achieved by making the all-India services truly integrated. Or let the Union Government abandon each State to its provincial cadre and hope for the best.

The appalling law and order situation in the country, the rise in crime, the upsurge of violent dissident and armed insurgencies shows that the steel frame is collapsing under the weight of our Indo-Saracenic Anglo-Gothic-Tribal-Christian-Secular structure. Even on very optimistic lines one cannot say what will happen when--or if--the ruling party in New Delhi splinters or dissolves. A firm, fair, and nationally committed administration would then become strategically vulnerable and secession-prone border regions. Divided loyalties will not do.

CSO: 4220

GOVERNMENT FORMS PANELS ON SCIENCE, ENERGY

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 12. The constitution of a Science Advisory Committee to the Cabinet (SACC) comprising eminent scientists and the setting up of a Commission for Additional Sources of Energy (CASE) were officially announced today.

The Minister of State for Science and Technology, Mr C.P.N. Singh laid on the table of the Lok Sabha a Government resolution on the composition and functions of the two new bodies.

CASE will be entrusted with the responsibility of planning and implementation of programmes for development of new and renewable sources of energy.

SACC will be headed by the member of the Planning Commission in charge of science and technology. The present incumbent is Dr M. S. Swaminathan and he will be the ex-officio chairman of SACC.

The Secretary to the Department of Science and Technology, Prof. M. G. K. Menon, will be the ex-officio member secretary of SACC.

SACC Members

Besides, it will have 18 members. They are: Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission, Secretary Department of Space, Secretary, Department of Electronics, Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister, Director General of CSIR, Secretary, Department of Environment.

Dr Raja Ramanna, Prof. Rais Ahmed of Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Devendra Lal of Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, Prof C. N. R. Rao of Indian Institute of Science.

Dr M. M. Sharma of University Department of Chemical Technology, Bombay, Mr K.P.P. Nambiar of Keltron, Trivandrum, Dr M.N. Dastur of Dastur and Company, Dr Nityanand of Central Drug Research Institute, Prof. Obaid Siddiqui of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Dr S.R. Valluri of National Aeronautical Laboratory, Prof. R.R. Daniel of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Dr. S.Z. Qasim of National Institute of Oceanography. Some more members will be included later.

Advisory Body

The committee will be an advisory body to the Cabinet. Besides tendering advice on the formulation of science and technology policy of Government and on the manner of its implementation, it will identify and recommend measures to enhance the country's technological self-reliance and consider policy issues relating to the development and application of science and technology and organisational aspects of S and T organisations.

Functions of CASE

CASE will be headed by Prof M. G. K. Menon in his ex-officio capacity as Secretary of Department of Science and Technology. The other members are Secretary to Department of Power (Mr D. V. Kapur), Secretary to Department of Expenditure (Mr V.B. Easwaran), Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Dr O.P. Gautam) and Mr A.M. Thomas Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

The functions of CASE are: (A) Formulation of policies and programmes for development of new and renewable sources of energy; (B) Coordination and intensification of research and development activities in new and renewable sources of energy and (C) Ensuring implementation of government's policies in regard to matters concerning new and renewable sources of energy.

The Government resolution said in recent years there had been a significant and continuing increase in the price of oil and also uncertainties about its availability on a guaranteed and steady basis. It was therefore important to develop all the indigenous sources of energy in India.

Apart from expanding conventional sources, new and renewable energy sources like solar, wind and biomass were of particular interest for supplying the energy needs of the decentralised and rural sectors, as well as several potential industrial users.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(I) CONCERNED OVER PARTY IN ASSAM

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Shillong, March 12--The hectic political activity in Guahati suggests a stormy period ahead for Mrs Taimur's Congress(I) Ministry, with the Budget session of the Assembly opening on March 19. Whatever her sins of commission and omission, the sudden arrival of Mr Narain Dutt Tiwari in Gauhati at Mrs Gandhi's behest shows that the Congress(I) high command is perturbed by the extent of disaffection bordering on revolt within the State Congress(I).

Curiously enough, Mr Tiwari, who arrived yesterday in the State capital, has had a series of meetings with individuals including vehement critics of Mrs Taimur like Mr Altaf Hussain Majumdar leaders of middling stature like Mr Bishnu Prasad who are unhappy over Mrs Taimur's "individualistic style" of functioning, and the party president, Mr Lalit Kumar Doley. He addressed Congress(I) workers today.

According to reliable sources, Mr Tiwari will assess the vehemence and extent of revolt within the party particularly the danger of cross voting if things are brought to a head during the Assembly session. Since the Centre has been impressed by Mrs Taimur's achievements in a short spell, vis-a-vis the law and order situation and administration. Mr Tiwari's main effort will be to keep the party united before and during the Assembly session.

Although Mrs Taimur and her supporters are confident and are lobbying vigorously, Opposition leaders like Mr Sarat Sinha and Janata leaders are working hard to upset her applecart. The Leftists are the largest problematic group. Both the CPI and the Marxists are believed to have sought a directive from their respective politburos. The CPI leader, Mr Phani Bora, has said that his party will not support Mrs Taimur's Ministry, but he has been non-committal about the party's preferences. The Marxists are likely to judge issues on their merits.

Mr Sarat Sinha has been entrusted with the task of bringing the Leftists in tow but the prospects are not bright. What can disturb Mrs Taimur's supporters is the possibility of a sizable number of Leftists abstaining from voting on a motion of non-confidence. The Marxists, the CPI and the SUC number 19--support that Mrs Taimur cannot do without, especially since the RCPI and the Naxalites are clearly against her.

Another crucial vote concerns the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, whose four votes are conditional on Mrs Taimur's giving "concrete evidence" of implementing certain assurances given to them during President's rule. The PTCA executive is meeting on March 18 to formalize its stand. It is organizing a rally on March 15 at Kokrajhar in the heart of the Bodo belt.

It had been agreed in tripartite discussions between PTCA, Central Government and Assam Government representatives in New Delhi late last year that Chapter 10 of the Assam Land and Revenue Manual would be amended to prevent alienation of tribal land, render tribal blocks compact, and create a tribal development authority. A Presidential Ordinance was expected but with the restoration of a Ministry this has to be done by an Ordinance issued by the Governor.

Meanwhile, Mrs Taimur has effected top level changes in the Police Department, Mr Samar Das will be replacing Mr Mihir Barua as special Inspector-General of Police and Mr S. Chakravarty is taking over from Mr I.S. Iyer as Additional Inspector-General, CID, Mr B.S. Babber is taking over as IGP for Meghalaya.

CSO: 4220

CONGRESS(I) PRESIDENTIAL POLL MAY BE DELAYED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 81 pp 1,9

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 13--A piquant situation has arisen inside the Congress(I)--obviously because of intense group rivalries--as a result of which the presidential election and the plenary session may not be held as projected, in the end of May.

The party units in States are far from completing the enrolment of primary members and submitting the "books" to the AICC(I) headquarters, despite the many extensions already allowed for this purpose. The subsequent process of putting together the party structure, leading up to the presidential election is thus held up, much to the embarrassment of the senior leaders of the premier, ruling party that ought to have a mass organizational base but has not quite succeeded in building it up.

The schedule of "last dates" for enrolment, submission nominations for lower units withdrawals, scrutiny and election from the base units upwards had been announced long ago by the general secretaries in charge of organizational elections such as Mr Vasantao Patil, Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and Mr S.S. Mohapatra. As these "last dates" lapsed, they have come up with a new schedule each time. They said simultaneously that Mrs Gandhi, president of the party, was very particular that the elections should take on time.

At first, it was stated that February 15 would be the last date for enrolment of members. This was extended to March 5, at a Press conference held by Mr Mohapatra and Mrs Bajpai.

Mr Mohapatra has now made a statement that the last date will be extended to March 31 for enrolment and to April 15 for submission of the enrolment books to the party headquarters.

It is not without reason that Mrs Gandhi reportedly agreed to such extension of dates. First, although she wants to demonstrate that she is keen on organizational elections and giving the party a democratic shape--organizational elections have not been held for the past seven years--no State unit seems to have been able to compile the enrolment lists. Neither are old lists of membership available with them. All records and books seem to be with the old Congress (which was split in the beginning of 1978).

CSO: 4220

MINISTER GIVES STATISTICS ON 1980 BANGLADESH REFUGEES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Of the 2,19,000 of Bangladesh nationals who came over to India in 1980, more than 53,000 did not return to their country, Mr Kanti Biswas, Minister for Youth Services, told the West Bengal Assembly on Friday.

Replying to a question, he said many of them did not have valid documents. The State Government sent nearly 1,300 visas for verification to the Indian High Commission's office in Bangladesh and found that of them, 983 visas were forged.

Of the 53,000 who stayed behind, more than 38,000 were Hindus and nearly 14,000 Muslims. Mr Biswas said he had written to the Union Government several times for advice. "But not a single letter has been acknowledged."

Replying to another question on loans given to unemployed youngmen, Mr Biswas said the Left Front Government had sanctioned schemes worth more than Rs 26 lakhs in 2-1/2 years (till January 1980) while the previous Government had sanctioned schemes worth Rs 13 lakhs in five years. But what was most "alarming," Mr Biswas said, was that the recovery of loans under the additional employment schemes sanctioned during 1972-77 was as low as "6 or 7%." In many cases, the money was found to have been sanctioned against "fictitious" persons, the Minister said.

The day's session began amid shouts when the Opposition members told the Speaker that not one Cabinet Minister was present. The Chief Whip sought the permission of the Speaker to ring up the Ministers and the House calmed when Mr Nani Bhattacharya, Health Minister, and others arrived.

During mention hour, Mr Atish Sinha, (Cong-I), said the pension of a retired principal of Anandamohan College, who had been regularly getting it, was stopped after the Left Front Government had taken over management of the college in 1978.

Mr Satya Bapuli, (Cong-I), alleged that a Congress(I) worker was "shown involved" in a clash on March 11 when CITU had called a strike. But Mr Bapuli alleged, the worker was holding a discussion with a Left Front Minister during the day and the Minister had acknowledged it.

Mr Bapuli accused the Government of using the police to harass Cong(I) workers. Mr A. Halim, Judicial Minister, requested the speaker to expunge the item as the case was "sub judice." But the speaker ignored the request.

IDENTITY CARDS PLANNED FOR VOTERS IN NORTHEAST

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, March 12--The Government will issue identity cards with photographs "in phases" to the voters in Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland, Mr Yogendra Makwana, Minister of State for Home Affairs, told the Rajya Sabha today.

He said during question hour that the cards would be introduced first in Meghalaya and Nagaland.

The existing voters' list would be taken into consideration for issuing the cards. There was provision to cancel the identity card of a voter, if he was found to be a foreigner after scrutiny.

PTI adds: Mr Makwana promised to inform the House whether posters had appeared in Assam, after the present Ministry took over, urging Bangladesh nationals to enter the State.

He said in a written reply that several steps had been taken to strengthen vigilance at the India-Bangladesh border.

The steps included deployment of additional BSF units and intensification of police patrolling.

Besides, restrictions on acquisition of property by foreign nationals had been imposed by enacting the Assam alienation of land (Regulation) Act, 1980.

The Centre had drawn the Assam Government's attention to a Press report that two of the State Ministers and an MLA were not Indian citizens, Mr Makwana added in a written reply to Mr A. R. Sheikh and another member.

CSO: 4220

BIHAR TREES: A GRASS ROOTS REVOLT

London 8 DAYS in English 28 Mar 81 p 24

[Text]

The Bihari tree war over the government's afforestation scheme has become inextricably linked with tribal demands for a separate state. An EARTHSCAN report.

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE have been arrested and at least 25 killed in a fierce but little-reported 'tree war' in the central Indian state of Bihar.

The issue is the government's replacement of native sal trees with teak. It has pitted the local tribes against the government, united unfrocked Christians and local Marxists, and lent fire to a long-standing demand for a separate tribal state of Jharkhand. Development work in south Bihar has virtually stopped as police have clamped down on the agitation.

All over India, concern about shrinking forests and growing pressure on timber resources has led to a greater emphasis on 'production forestry'. In 1977, the Bihar Forest Development Corporation, a joint state and central undertaking, started to upgrade the natural sal forests by replacing them with the far higher priced teak.

In south Bihar, most of the plantations to be chosen were concentrated in the Singhbhum district on the Chotanagpur plateau, an area rich in sal. There have been teak plantations in the region since 1919, but never on such a scale as that proposed. The Singhbhum tribespeople, a remarkably proud and unified race called the Hos, did not like this. Nor did they want to lose their poor agricultural land to forests.

The hardwood sal (*Shorea robusta*) is dear to the tribes. Its durable timber is used for village carts, for beams, posts and railway sleepers. The soft kernel of its fruit is eaten by the tribespeople in lean times, and used in making chocolates. Sal leaves are shaped into drinking cups in tribal villages, and the sal seed oil has many industrial uses. The sal tree is used in tribal religious rites, and is also cherished by the Buddhists.

In contrast, teak is a purely commercial timber, of no value to the tribesman or his cattle. And teak nurseries provide very little employment.

The tribal people of southern Bihar live in India's richest mineral belt. In the past they have suffered greatly from extensive mining operations, but the industrial and mining towns are oases of prosperity. Some forest tribesmen earn as little as half a rupee (6 US cents) a day. In an area of very marginal agriculture, these people cannot survive without forest produce. As vast areas of trees have been felled for mining operations, tribal rights in the remaining forests have been severely curtailed. Tribal lands have been taken over with no adequate compensation or alternative means of employment provided.

The life of the tribes has been changed in other ways: nearly a century of missionary activity has spread education and increased awareness in the interior of Chotanagpur. The Jharkhand state movement, demanding a tribal homeland carved out of Bihar and adjacent tribal areas of other states, is now a couple of decades old.

Although the demands have been softened from time to time as tribal leaders have been won over by the central government, in recent years the Jharkhand cause has been taken up by Marxist leaders, who have begun to organise the tribespeople.

In 1978, after nearly a year of petitioning the government against teak plantations, Singhbhum members began raiding tree nurseries under the Jharkhand banner, destroying saplings and forest buildings. In mid-1978, forest officials inspecting a village teak nursery were locked up for 22 hours, and had to be rescued by the police.

Between November 1978 and January 1979, the police fired on demonstrators in Singhbhum on at least six occasions, killing 10 people. On 3 November 1978 at Goelkera, an important timber town in Singhbhum, the tribes were peacefully protesting against an illegal tax imposed on goods offered to the weekly market. The authorities reacted by ordering a police baton charge, which resulted in injuries to women and children. A local member of parliament later planned a public meeting, but when someone announced that it would take place he was suddenly arrested. People demonstrated, the police opened fire, and three people were killed. Throughout 1979, heavily-armed police forces were maintained in the area.

In 1980, the protest movement was partially defused when a section of the Jharkhand leadership was won over by the ruling party. Even so, bitterness against afforestation remained high. In September last year, press reports stated that over 200 hectares of the Saranda forest had been damaged by the native population armed with axes and bows and arrows. Meanwhile, coal mining operations in Hazaribagh, another district of southern Bihar, were virtually paralysed. The tribes there agitated for fair compensation for land acquired by the Central Coalfield company and the Tatas family, and for adequate job opportunities.

The entire tribal belt seemed to be approaching a flashpoint, and the climax came on 8 September 1980. Hundreds gathered at the iron mining township of Gua in Singhbhum to 'gherao' (a Ghandian technique meaning peacefully encircle) the forestry officer. Police opened fire, and three policemen and 13 natives were killed.

Within a few days over 200 were under arrest. In Gua and in the district headquarters at Chaibasa, schools were closed and administration offices locked. Officials functioned from behind closed doors and shuttered windows.

Jharkhand leader Shibu Soren, a member of parliament, said the tribespeople would continue to destroy trees if the government did not stop taking tribal land for afforestation. 'Continued exploitation, deprivation of land tilled for centuries, and large-scale looting for forest wealth by contractors in collusion with forest officials have forced the tribes to seek their own way of salvation,' said Soren. Henceforth, he warned, no contractor would be allowed to work in the forests in the tribal belt.

The grass-roots leadership in Singhbhum has come from three south Indians who once belonged to different Christian orders working in the area. The three — a woman, T. P. Jyotsna, and two men, Xavier Dias and Alexias Raj — were defrocked by their churches for their part in the tree war. Their newspaper 'Singhbum Ekta' ('Singhbum's Unity') carried a headline, 'Trade of Corpses in Gua'. That provoked their arrest.

By last November, the protest seemed to be almost contained. But when forest department staff went to repair a bridge on the road to Goelkera which had been damaged, they were ambushed by tribesmen. Firing again took place. Officially, no deaths were reported.

During the entire course of Bihar's three-year 'tree war', at least 25 tribespeople have been killed in police shooting. The number could well be double that, but since the incidents are shrouded in secrecy and get hardly any press coverage, it is difficult to tell. To appease the tribes, the Bihar Forest Development Corporation has started schools and dispensaries, but these welfare measures have not touched the tribal economy. The central government has also announced that forestry in tribal areas will keep the tribal interest in mind. In Singhbhum, timber auctions have been suspended and new teak plantations stopped. But nothing has really been resolved: neither the question of trees, nor the demand for statehood. Instead the two issues have only become inextricably linked.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF FOREIGN COLLABORATORS SUGGESTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 6

[Text]

NEW DELHI, March 12

A panel of the Planning Commission has proposed a "national register of foreign collaborations" to ensure that technology imports are in the larger national interest, and planned for internal dissemination and development.

The Commission's Working Group on Science and Technology says the onus should be on the seeker of the foreign technology to demonstrate that the requisite technology elements, in type and quality, were not available in the domestic technology market where he should first shop.

It notes that industries and user Ministries now shop first abroad, fix a collaborator and, confront the domestic science and technology system only when they come to the approval authority.

It suggests that the importer must, in major areas, indicate planning to absorb and further develop the imported technology.

The Working Group headed by Prof. M. G. K. Menon, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, had been asked to recommend a policy framework for science and technology priorities in the Sixth Plan.

It recommends that the prime contractor of any project must be Indian, and that there should be a firm commitment to associate appropriate Indian research and development activities with all import of know-how and thereafter to invest sufficiently in research and development for absorption, adaptation, improvement and conversion to new technologies.

It calls for a radical modification of the activities of the National Research Development Corporation so that it not only licensed indigenous technologies, but also vigorously promoted research and development. The corporation should be adequately funded for the purpose.

Need to Relax Curbs

The Menon group wants mandatory spending by Government scientific agencies, economic Ministries and public sector enterprises of a percentage of their research and development budget in the academic sector.

The excessive restrictions on sponsored research and consultancy by academic institutions should be relaxed at the same time, it says. The present barriers to mobility of personnel and communication between educational institutions and research organisations production undertakings and governmental policy-making "structures" impeded the scientific and technological progress.

Industrial research scientists should be enabled to hold concurrent research positions in the educational and training system. University scientists should be seconded to or given consultancy assignments in industry, and joint research by universities and industrial research organisations encouraged.

Widening Gap

The group says the gap between India and the advanced countries has significantly widened on the science and technology front because of faster progress in those countries in the development of both infrastructure and capabilities.

The total stock of scientific and technical manpower of India might appear large at first sight, but a large part of it was not engaged in scientific or technological activities. Besides, the quality of personnel varied widely.

Moreover, in large areas of economic activity, relatively obsolete cost-ineffective technology continued to be applied, the pace of scientific and technological innovation remained unimpressive, and adaptation of the available scientific and technological knowledge was tardy.

World Class Technology

The group is of the view that the new areas opened up, new approaches created and new concepts introduced by major science and technology advances abroad during the last 20 years were highly relevant for India's development activities.

It, therefore, calls for the development of "world class technologies appropriate to India's priorities".

This required not only financial support for science and technology activities in India, but for "linkages" between educational, research and development establishments, industry and governmental machinery, as well as for policies conducive to the use of indigenous effort.

Besides interchange of academic and industrial scientists, the Menon group suggests the appointment of senior scientists and technologists as scientific advisers to economic Ministries and Government departments and agencies connected with the use of science and technology.

On the educational front, it is for separating the stream going in for science as a career from the stream going in for it as a part of liberal education. It also wants selective encouragement of outstanding individual and viable groups of scientists to undertake advanced research comparable to what is being done in advanced countries.

"Think Tank"

It recommends the establishment of new research institutes in molecular biology, plasma physics, immunology and biotechnology, with a strong mandate for theoretical and pure research.

The group has assigned the Department of Science and Technology the role of a "think tank" engaged in futuristic studies and recommendation of measures for the country to benefit from new developments in science and technology abroad.—PTI.

WEST BENGAL'S PROBLEMS WITH EXTREMISTS REVIEWED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11, 12, 13 Mar 81

[Three-part article by Sivdas Banerjee: "Bengal Extremism"]

[11 Mar 81, pp 1, 12]

[Text] Calcutta. CPM Leadership Left High and Dry

Police camps manned by the para-military Eastern Frontier Rifles have been set up in West Dinajpur and Malda districts of West Bengal to combat CPI(ML) extremists who raided a number of villages on the borders of Bangladesh and Bihar recently, looting guns from their owners.

The barbed wire fences and the freshly-dug trenches and dug-outs surrounding these camps indicate the hazards of the operation.

Itahar, Kushmandi and Bansiari police stations in West Dinajpur and Gajole, Bamangola and Habibpur in adjoining Malda, which did not even have a telephone link at the time of the extremists' action, have now been provided with wireless links. The villages in these areas are covered with thick forests and swamp lands.

At noon on March 6, an EFR column moved out of a police camp about two km away from Patiraj market place under the Itahar police station to arrest a suspect, who, it was believed, had returned to the village ten days after the looting. A day before, the police had information that an extremist group was trying to mine a road. Both the missions proved to be a wild goose chase.

The reason for the failure is that the villagers remain as non-cooperative as ever in these matters for fear of reprisals. Hard intelligence is almost impossible to come by. While the administration is determined to liquidate the underground set-up and recover the stolen weapons, the police will have to be patient in this battle of attrition, for it is going to be a long-drawn-out one.

The first task may not be too difficult with the present deployment of forces but winning over the villagers, who are under psychological pressure and threats of death for betrayal by the extremists, will be a tough task, even though the police so far have been selective in their arrests even in areas called "muktanchal" (liberated).

The Mahendra area, a "muktanchal" comprising three villages at the trijunction of the administrative jurisdiction of all the disturbed police stations in West Dinajpur, is mostly inhabited by Rajbanshis and Adivasis and is bifurcated geographically by a fairly deep canal. Combing this area, the police stumbled upon a neck-deep bunker of the extremists which has since been sealed.

The extremists are believed to have chosen this as a "muktanchal" not because of its terrain but because the area had no big landowner left after two jotedars in it had been killed. Small and medium farmers as also the landless are supposed to be class allies.

However, it is doubtful if application of these principles has paid off as there are reasons to believe that the extremists in this area have not been able to win over more than half a dozen "class allies" to their side. The looting of guns was done mostly by activists drawn from outside. If at all, the extremists have the villagers' sympathy for identifying with the latter's way of living and working.

So, the people bereft of any political direction are palpably feeling lost. They are already refusing to talk even to friendly visitors from other villages or political groups. The extremists seem to be gaining ground when both the Congress(I) and the Congress(U) blame the administration, more particularly the police, for these developments. A curious comment from the Congress(I) about no owner resisting the looting of his gun is that "after all, guns are meant for the safety of personal property and not for fighting an extremist group is active at the CPM's behest." [as published]

But what has caused great embarrassment to the CPM leadership is that even after controlling most of the panchayat bodies in the entire disturbed area, it did not have an inkling of what was about to happen in the third week of February. Even more damaging was the arrest of Mr Jiban Chakravorty on the basis of interrogation of suspects. Mr Chakravorty came to the Mahendra area, took up a school master's job, was elected to the local panchayat and turned into a natural leader of the area.

The suspicion is that Mr Chakravorty used his association with the ruling party and the local legislator to cover up his allegedly active association with the CPI(ML). But his case is not an exception. In Mahendra, this correspondent was told about several other panchayat members elected on the CPM ticket allegedly making themselves scarce from their respective areas after the gun looting incidents.

For instance, a young man, with both hands deformed, appeared from nowhere and volunteered to take me to one such panchayat member posing as a member of the local CPM committee. When we approached the Rajbanshi member's house, we were told that the person was not available. Apparently, the message had moved faster. I was then introduced to another bespectacled Rajbanshi. The gentleman flatly refused to talk. It appeared the old man's son had joined the extremists and was absconding.

The largest number of these guns were looted from the Itahar thana area, especially the Mahendra segment of it. The Patiraj block, for example, lost as many as 22 guns, or about a third of the total. The victims would not talk to outsiders. Those who did simply said the extremists, numbering six to eight, were clad in shorts and vests and were mostly unarmed.

The back-up force, keeping a watch on other houses or guarding lanes, did not exceed 30. At some places they exploded bombs but only to scare away the people. The way they seized the guns from first floor bedrooms or family strong rooms by going straight for the weapons indicated that they had precise information which could have been provided only by close neighbours or members of those families themselves.

There is evidence that as early as mid-January masked men had visited some of these villages and threatened the people with death if they withheld "cooperation." Some of the victims had received printed and stamped notices in advance from the "revolutionary committees." But all this information seems to have been withheld from the police till after 48 to 72 hours of the actual looting.

While most of the victims were Rajbanshis, to suggest from such coincidences a probable link-up of the CPI(ML) movement with the Uttarkhand protagonists, will be premature. The Rajbanshis, wherever they are, may be having their own grievances, but to imagine that Uttarkhand movement leaders like Mr Sampat Roy or Mr Panchanan Mullick would have allowed their rank and file to get exposed to the CPI(ML)'s radical policies so easily might be too much. But this is a point on which the administration has no conclusive evidence yet.

On return, the inspector heading a police camp explained to me that the young man who had befriended me was under surveillance. He was believed to have visited Mr Chakravorty's house after the latter's arrest. There was an attempt to raise funds to facilitate Mr Chakravorty's bail, but the police were yet to lay their hands on the sponsors of the move.

The CPM organisation admittedly has not grown in these parts of West Dinajpur commensurate with its influence as reflected in its virtual sweep of the panchayat poll. In the very large Itahar thana area, where the party controls all panchayat bodies, it strangely has no more than three card-holding members. Most panchayat nominations were given from outside the ranks or even the front bodies. Today, all of them, except one who happens to be a non-Rajbanshi and non-Adivasi, plead total ignorance of what has happened around them.

So, it will remain an open question how many of the so-called CPM supporters or panchayat members may or may not have been involved in the CPI(ML)'s violent strategy. It may be as heavy as it was during the first flush of the Naxalbari movement in the late sixties.

This makes the task before the administration even more difficult and frustrating. It has still to work against a formidable wall of popular silence. Just as this correspondent's visit to any particular household or village was announced in advance, so must be the experience of the police. Whether the police can break this wall and flush out the extremists, time alone will tell.

[12 Mar 81, p 16]

[Text] Raiganj. Lethargy of Police Assailed

No one in the administration or in politics in West Bengal has a good word to say about the police or their role in checking the renewed extremist violence in West Dinajpur and Malda districts.

A sense of insecurity will persist among the villagers so long as the policemen remain lethargic in fulfilling their expected task. The complaints against the police are legitimate for they not only ignored the first danger signals when a series of nine political murders were committed in the two districts, but failed to stop the extremists from rescuing five of their colleagues from court custody in 1980. The innumerable dacoities and other crimes that followed these outrages too remained practically uninvestigated.

Such inaction cannot possibly be explained away by pointing to the insufficient number of personnel to man the police stations. Knowledgeable circles in the two districts even go to the extent of saying that service weapons have been found with dacoits and other criminals. Smuggling and gun-running have almost become a part of life for a large number of people, they allege. Surely, there is a big gap in police intelligence here.

Govt. Policy

It can, however, be argued that the left front government's act of freeing all the Naxalite leaders as part of a general amnesty in 1977 had confused the law enforcement force on its role in dealing with the extremists. The police were also repeatedly told to leave "democratic political activity" alone.

But this will not wash. Official spokesmen maintain that the directive to the force to curb violence in any form was clearly spelled out. So the failure to collect even basic intelligence, leave alone curbing violence, needs more valid explanation.

What could have been the reasons? Was it due to other pre-occupations, sheer negligence or fear? There is evidence that the policemen have been overawed by the Naxalites.

When a colleague recently wanted to visit a disturbed village, the head of the emergency police camp suggested a four-man escort. These four men got into the colleague's vehicle all right but refused to allow the vehicle to move into the village. Finally, he moved in on his own.

Past incidents like forcible harvesting, looting of trucks on the national highway, dacoities and even killings are being referred to by political parties to point out police inaction. However, much of this appraisal seems to have been made from their respective viewpoints.

For instance, the Congress(I) leader, Mr Jagadish Sarkar, says "Naxalite or CPM slogans" were used during many such incidents and the victims invariably were Congress(I) supporters.

The CPM district secretary, Mr Ashish Ghosh, on the other hand, attributes many of these incidents, sought to be made out as law and order problems, to agrarian disputes. He alleges that jotedars were responsible for these and they "are all, except for one or two on our side," with the Congress(I).

But Mr Ashish Ghosh is not ready to say if the case of Samir Soren of Kshar-gharta village, near Danlatpur in Bansiari thana, has any relevance to his analysis. Samir, his neighbours testify, is a middle farmer. At least his neatly laid out spacious dwelling suggests that he is. He read up to Class X. He cultivated his land himself.

About three years ago, a dispute arose between him and a local jotedar, who was professedly a Congress(I) supporter and owned a gun. In course of time, Samir found over 15 civil and criminal cases pending against him. A few months ago, Samir allegedly tried to stab the jotedar to death.

Recently, four guns and a police rifle were dug out of his barn. Samir was arrested. His wailing sister said the weapons were forcibly dumped on Samir a bare 48 hours before his arrest on the threat of annihilation of the entire family if he refused.

What Samir's sister did not say but others did was that of the three people arrested after the guns were seized, one was from Itahar, an unknown face locally. In the eyes of the administration, Samir is a "confirmed extremist," which he may not have been two or even three years ago.

To the jotedar, whose life Samir allegedly sought to take, Samir remains a "confirmed dacoit," the proof being the guns found in his home. The jotedar has his gun intact and so have several of his neighbours in the village.

Political Lapse

A question may well be asked if Samir's alleged alignment with the extremists was not a result of the failure of other political parties, including the CPM, to safeguard his interests. An interesting factor here is that nowhere in the three disturbed thana areas of Itahar, Kushmandi and Bansiari has operation "barga" made much headway.

Most jotedars I spoke to appear to prefer to get their land tended to by hired labour to sidetrack the restrictions of the share-cropping law.

When victims of gun looting or forcible harvesting sought the intervention of leaders like Mr Jiban Chakravorty of Mr Chabil Deb Sharma, elected on the CPM ticket, they were allegedly told: "What can be done if the paddy or a gun of one owning seven or more acres of land is looted. Gun looting has been common in Itahar and we will see what can be done about it." A few days later, Mr Jiban Chakravorty was arrested.

Of course, not all the people chose to remain silent spectators when the crime graph spurted in the Raiganj sub-division in 1969. They organised resistance

groups and "shanti" committees, sometimes with official blessings, to counter lawlessness but these units often tended to take on an antileft stance, more particularly on issues relating to land disputes.

The "shanti" committees have reappeared recently but with less fanfare. Others like the "Kshatriya Samaj" have proliferated. There have been even alleged attempts at "employing a thief to catch a thief."

But, sadly, the fact remains that in spite of this and the setting up of a number of emergency police camps fortified with men of the Eastern Frontier Rifles, dacoities continue unabated.

Motive Baffling

Needless to say, the extremists may now well have taken this opportunity to strike taking advantage of the prevailing all-round insecurity. Recently, they even went a step further and killed three notorious dacoits identified as Gogu, Jidhu and Jogen Bora in a quick action. This may have made them appear as heroes before the people.

But the extremists' real motive behind this apparent "good Samaritan" act is baffling for they reportedly spread word after this slaughter that dacoits would be welcome to join their ranks provided they relinquished their criminal activity.

What happened to this overture is not known. Most intriguing is the fact that these people with known criminal background have since been maintaining a studied silence in the face of police interrogation.

The recurrence of extremist violence in typical periods like 1977, 1979 and now again in 1981, with just over a year for the next elections, has made the left front leadership jittery. They fear this may be the precursor of a much bigger and powerful movement to follow.

It may take the police about ten weeks to bring the situation fully under control and perhaps a longer period to recover the looted guns.

[13 Mar 81, p 17]

[Text] Raiganj. Naxalite Groups' Bid for Unity

The disarray in the ranks has not crippled to any serious extent the CPI(ML)'s capacity to strike. The administration and even some former Naxalites had believed that the various extremist factions were unable to regroup for any determined action until one of these struck in West Dinajpur recently.

The basis for this under-estimation was that unity among the Naxalite groups remains a far cry with ideological and tactical issues dividing them and personal leadership factors further fragmenting the ranks. Nevertheless, 13 of some 15 groups recently sat together to issue a "call to the people to unite to oppose the autocratic Indira Gandhi government and to march forward to build a new democratic India."

Some of the issues dividing these groups relate to "the social imperialism" of the USSR, China's leadership of the third world or moving from the bi-polar to the multi-polar concept.

Individual annihilation of class enemies as a tactical weapon seems to have been abandoned by most groups, but insurrection remains the common and final goal. For this, most of them have overground or underground party apparatus but all of them realise the need for developing mass front organisations without which, they believe, their attempts will fail as in the past.

Some of the prominent protagonists of this line are Mr Sudhangshu Palit, Mr Kaushik Banerjee, Mr Arijit Mitra, Mr Sudhir Bhattacharyya and Mr Sadhan Chakravarty. Their thinking undoubtedly is a departure from the late Charu Mazumdar's thesis. It is obvious they are making an attempt to correct the costly mistakes made by the movement in the late sixties. But the CPI(ML) group active in West Dinajpur is, however, an exception.

Even as another like-minded group --identified with Dr Benoda Misra of North Bihar--seems to be changing its course, the marauding West Dinajpur group has been sticking to the Lin Piao line propagated by Mazumdar.

Besides Mr Jiban Chakravorty, who is already in custody, the other names mentioned as belonging to this group of "no changers" are Mr Pritish Bhattacharyya, Mr Azizul Haq, Mr Chandra (Subir Talukdar), Mr Mahaboob and Mr Shyam Kisku. Mr Bhattacharyya and Mr Azizul Haq were released in 1977 in the general amnesty. While Mr Haq went straight to the area, Mr Bhattacharyya did a spell of college teaching before joining the Socialist Unity Centre.

The reason why Mr Haq could go directly to the area was that some of his comrades had been able to organise a nucleus of an underground party apparatus in the adjoining areas of Malda and West Dinajpur where Adivasis and Rajbanshis form the bulk of the population.

'Regional Govt.'

In mid-1980, the Azizul group announced the formation of a "regional revolutionary government" comprising "four West Bengal and Bihar districts" with headquarters in Mahendra, in Itahar thana in West Dinajpur. But a central committee document claimed at that time that "some lakhs of peasants belonging to a total of eight districts, including two from Bihar and one from Assam, are today on the threshold of an uprising. The reestablishment of the party's prestige has started flooding Murshidabad and Birbhum also." However, Mr Azizul Haq's former political colleagues say if he has not learnt his lessons in the late sixties, "they will be forced on him now."

Other documents pointed to the formation of a north-eastern zonal committee, village defence squads, counter-espionage and an armed wing of the "Shyam Brigade" for mobile warfare. Renaming Mahendra "Shyamnagar," the documents spoke about "our weakness like inadequate equipment for the guerillas and the need for arming the people to ensure the stability of a "base area," yet to be established. The "base," though small, should be able to grow to encircle cities, it was stressed.

Soon thereafter Shyam Hansda, a front-line activist, was murdered by the villagers in a market place angered by the killing of a jotedar. His death was avenged by five guerilla squads of the "Sukumar command" (one of the many commands) which stormed "enemy houses," captured two guns, and beheaded two landlord brothers who "murdered" comrade Shyam and hanged the chopped heads from a tree.

If the villagers are tight-lipped today about these happenings, it is because of fear. Possibly, some of them are "committed" to the movement but this commitment is generally regarded as skin-deep. Fear from both sides has made these people wary of talking even to outsiders in a situation where some of their own "committed" children live away from homes fearing police action.

Leadership Changes

Initially, another prominent extremist, Bahadev Mukherjee, was associated with the Azizul group but he parted company with his differences with the others. The leadership of the group has since revolved on Mr Pritish Bhattacharyya and Mr Azizul Huq. The names of the committee members, however, are unknown.

Almost simultaneously with the announcement of the "government" significant leadership changes took place. The name of one "Satish" had appeared as "chairman of the council of ministers of the North Bengal-Bihar border regional government." Satish was described in his own party documents as a "poor peasant." The extremists, by their own definition, consider the landless, poor peasants, middle peasants and also a section of rich peasants as class allies.

Satish, however, allegedly developed "individualistic aberrations" soon thereafter. He has apparently since been replaced by "Rudra" in whose name the jotedars were notified in cold print that their guns would be taken away.

But all these are not the only signs of inner-party discord. People who know say a hiatus was growing between those who sought to develop a base since 1972-73 and others, mostly newcomers. The arrest of some extremists late last year suggests "pollution" in the ranks and betrayal of "shelter masters" (people in charge of arranging night shelter for fugitive activists and couriers).

CSO: 4220

WORLD BANK ADVISES COMPUTERIZED RAILWAYS SYSTEM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Mar 81 p 15

[Article by K.N. Malik]

[Text] New Delhi, March 12. A World Bank team has indicated to the Indian Railways that unless it goes in for a computerised management system and modernises local and other rail technology, any large-scale credit for new railway projects would not serve the best interests of the organisation.

The bank team, which visited India recently and held discussions with railway experts, felt that in the absence of the computerised management system, the railways are not able to adequately plan their rolling stock, wagon loading, review or recast all-India marshalling orders or organise updated reservation system. Simulation exercises for improving the operation or central compilation of statistics or storage of information in respect of commercial, operating and accounts was also not possible without such a computerised system.

Chairman Against

The railway board chairman, Mr M.S. Gujral, who took over in November, it is learnt, is not in favour of either a computerised management system or updated local technology which would mean import of more modernised, higher horsepower locos. According to him, the computerised management system should follow the installation of a modern communication system and not precede it.

His colleagues in the Railway Board, however, do not agree with him and insist that the two projects should go hand in hand. While the work on the Rs 150-crore communication project gets under way, the railways could start selection of the Rs 350-crore computer system and programming exercises. In a recent full board meeting, Mr Gujral's four colleagues were able to "persuade" him on the need to go in for this kind of system. Another source said that Mr Gujral was overruled.

The railways have been keen on the project for quite some years. A detailed study some time ago resulted in the railways recommending to the government that the computerised management system should be installed. It also recommended the import of ten prototypes of higher horsepower, more modernised locos to enable the railways to meet the increased demand of carriage of goods

and passengers. The railways, according to this scheme, should undertake indigenous manufacture of modern locos.

When Prof Madhu Dandavate became the railway minister he shot down the idea of higher horsepower locos. However, after the present government took over, the project was once again revived.

Import Essential

Regarding the computerised management system, the Electronics Commission came out with the view that the system suggested by the railways and which the World Bank was ready to finance would have to be imported. This will adversely affect the indigenous computer industry. A six-member committee comprising experts from the railways and Electronics Commission is being set up by the railways to determine the right kind of system and manner in which the programme should be implemented.

Most railway experts believe that it may not be possible for any particular centralised computer system such as the TOPS--Total Operations--used by the Southern Railroads in the USA or by the British Rail to meet the needs of the Indian Railways. It may be possible to have a distribution system of computer at zonal level. This hardware could be provided by indigenous sources and an imported centralised computer to be linked with zonal computers.

The World Bank credits for some of the on-going programmes like electrification programme and another manufacturing unit for producing coaches and wheel and axle plant will continue to be made available.

CSO: 4220

RAILWAY MINISTER ON MOVES TO SPEED UP TRAFFIC

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Ahmedabad, March 8. The Union railway minister, Mr Kedar Pandey, today said the government proposed to convert some goods trains into mail and express goods train to speed up goods movement in the country.

Talking to newsmen here, he said a high power committee to go into the question of reconstitution of railway division and shifting of certain railway headquarters would be set up this week. He said there was a dire need to create a goods traffic-oriented psychology by giving secondary priority to passenger traffic to help increase industrial and agricultural development. Moreover, goods traffic accounted for 70 per cent of the railway's income, he added.

Mr Pandey said an amount of Rs 450 crores would be spent to electrify another 2,800 kilometres during the sixth plan, as against 5,900 kilometres electrified in the country till April last year.

Claiming to have speeded up the turn-round capacity of goods trains up to 13.4 days compared to 16 days during the Janata rule, the railway minister said he was not satisfied with the operating system of passenger trains.

The 27-day old strike by some loco running staff was partly responsible for poor punctuality, but the government had taken firm action against them, he added.

Earlier, addressing the mill owners' association, he said railway operations had improved considerably and on an average 32,000 wagons were being loaded per day as against 26,000 about five months ago.

On the coal front, he said, the entire demand of the energy ministry was being met and power houses had sufficient coal reserves.

Representatives of the millowners' association, Ahmedabad, pointed out to him that the coal position in textile industries was very acute and that they were receiving only about 25 per cent of their coal allocation by rail.

The minister gave an assurance that due attention would be paid to their demand.

Later, addressing the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he said 40,000 old wagons were being condemned on a programmed basis and the future requirement of wagons would be met by indigenous production.

/He said that shifting of the Western Railway headquarters to Ahmedabad would involve an investment of over Rs 60 crores. He, however, added that the advisability of shifting the headquarter would be looked into by the high-power committee to be set up shortly./ [in boldface]

The general manager, Western Railways, said the frequency of the Sarvodaya Express could not be increased further as the line capacity of the section was not adequate at this stage. He said all the earth work and bridge work on the Hapa-Porbandar-Okha sections of the Viramgam-Okha-Porbandar route would be completed by the end of this year. The completion of the project would, however, be delayed owing to nonavailability of raw materials. There was a provision of Rs 4 crores for this project during the financial year 1981-82, he added.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MORE OIL--New Delhi, March 12--Algeria has agreed to supply to India an additional half a million tonnes of oil for 1981. It has already communicated its decision to the Indian Government. India had signed an agreement with Algeria for 0.5 million tonnes early this year. With this the total oil supply for 1981 from Algeria would be one million tonnes, according to official sources. Nigeria has also reportedly offered additional oil supplies to India. The Petroleum Ministry is considering the offer. Nigeria has already agreed to supply half a million tonnes of oil for this year. Though Libya has also offered to supply to India, but it was found not suitable because of its high wax content. Meanwhile, Iraq has started pumping oil through its Mediteranian pipeline and India is expected to lift this oil in the next one or two months. Initially, it is expected that Iraq might supply one to two million tonnes of oil. India, however, is yet to receive any word from Saudi Arabia with regard to oil supply. It did not receive any oil from Saudi Arabia last year also. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 1]

ANDHRA PRADESH CONGRESS(I)--New Delhi, March 12--The Congress(I) Parliamentary Board today chose Mr T. Anjaiah, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, as the party candidate for the Assembly by-election in Ramayanpet constituency in Medak district. The Board named the candidates for those other constituencies also. They are: Ibrahimpatnam-SC (Rangareddy)--Mr A.G. Krishna; Chirala (Prakasam district)--Mr Bandla Chinna Basayya Chetty Palair-SC (Khammam district)--Mr S. Chandrasekhar. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 1]

RETURN TO AIADMK--New Delhi, March 12--Mr V.P. Munuswamy, DMK member of the Rajya Sabha, has resigned from the party and joined the All India Anna DMK. Mr Munuswamy, senior Harijan leader from Pondicherry, was a member of the AIADMK in 1977 when he was elected to the House, but defected to the DMK in 1979. Mr Munuswamy told newsmen that he was returning to the "parent party." Mr Karunanidhi, as he had been opposing "for the sake of opposition" even very good schemes brought in by the Chief Minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran. PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 1]

JHARKHAND CAMPAIGN PLANS--The CPI(M-L) leader, Mr Satyanarain Singh and the Jharkhand Kranti Dal leader, Mr Leba Chand Tudu, said in Calcutta on Thursday that their workers would "peacefully occupy" Government offices at Ranchi on May 11 to press their demand for a separate Jharkhand State for tribal people. Mr Singh said that since the Guafiring in September, when many tribals were killed, the people of the Chhotanagpur area in Bihar had been terrorized by the police. In Singhbhum, Ranchi and Dhanbad districts many people were being

implicated in false cases for alleged violation of forest laws. Asked if other parties like the Jharkhand the Mukti Morcha would join their movement, Mr Singh said that there had been some differences among the Morcha leaders, but his party was trying hard to launch a united movement. Mr Santosh Rana, West Bengal CPI(M-L) leader, said that his party had no connexion with the West Dinajpur movement launched by a group which described itself as the CPI(M-L). But he believed that other people were also involved in gun-snatching in the border area noted for smuggling and other crimes. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATES-MAN in English 13 Mar 81 p 16]

BID FOR FOREIGN FUNDS--New Delhi, March 12--Banking institutions in some countries of East Asia are being approached for financing the expansion of India's mercantile marine fleet by about 2.5 million GRT in the next four years. The minister for shipping and transport, Mr Veerendra Patil, leaves next week on tour that will take him to Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan and Singapore. Of the proposed expansion, about 1.4 million GRT would be in the state shipping lines. The Shipping Corporation of India which has 146 ships proposes to acquire 47 more vessels. Moghul Lines which has 16 vessels plans to buy 20 more. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Mar 81 p 11]

AMMUNITION FOR TANKS--Jalgaon, March 8 (PTI)--The Varangaon ordnance factory in the district would start manufacturing ammunition for tanks of the Indian army in two and a half years. A new Rs 7-crore project has been sanctioned for the purpose. The project would give employment to more than 1,000 people in the factory. Mr O.P. Bahl, one of the members of the board of the Ordnance Factory of India, gave this information, yesterday, at a function organised to present a "special trophy" to the factory for its production achievement. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 9 Mar 81 p 8]

JAPANESE CONSUL IN BOMBAY--Bombay, March 13--Mr Kikuo Yoshida took over as the consul-general for Japan in Bombay from Monday. He was the consul-general for Japan in Houston, Texas before his current assignment in Bombay. Mr Yoshida has served in several other cities in secretarial capacities in the U.S., Australia and Afghanistan. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 81 p 6]

NAGALAND BUDGET PRESENTED--Kohima, March 13 (PTI)--A tax-free budget for 1981-82 was presented to the Nagaland assembly today by the finance minister, Mr Vamuzo. The receipts and expenditure each are estimated at Rs 117.48 crore net. The budget provides for raising an additional revenue of Rs 19 lakhs by revising the tariff of the state road transport services. Mr Vamuzo said efforts were being made to encourage cultivation of various cash crops like coffee to improve the economic status of the people and to provide gainful employment to them. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 81 p 9]

HARIJAN LEADER DIES--Rajkot, March 13 (PTI)--Mr Tapubhai Solanki (70), a Harijan leader and leader of the Saurashtra Safai Kamdar Union, died after a heart attack here yesterday evening. Some leading citizens, including the Rajkot mayor, Mr Arvindbhai Maniar, and other corporators attended his funeral today. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 81 p 9]

MISSION IN KAMPUCHEA--Singapore, March 13 (UNI)--Kampuchea has hailed the opening of India's first diplomatic mission in Phnom Penh last month since the end of the Indo-China war. The new Indian charge d'affaires, Mr Nigam Prakash, who is here on a short visit said the Kampuchean foreign minister, Mr Hun Sun, described his first meeting with him as a "historic occasion" and personally extended "warm greetings." "Kampuchea is inspired by the lead given by India in establishing relations with us," Mr Hun Sun told the envoy. Mr Prakash said India was helping Kampuchea in various ways. Besides supplying paddy seeds and medicine, India was also assisting in the restoration of the ancient ruins of Angkor Vat in northern Kampuchea. A team of Kampucheans will soon leave for India for training in archaeology, he added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Mar 81 p 12]

CSO: 4220

BENEFITS OF LAND REFORMS ACT EXTENDED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Mar 81 p 12

[Article by Mavin Kurve: "Nepal Tillers Get Tenancy Rights"]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 10. King Birendra today amended the land reforms act through an ordinance to extend its benefits to thousands of tenants who have not yet secured tenancy rights for various reasons.

The ordinance lays down that tillers cultivating at least one major crop in a year for landowners as tenants will be entitled to tenancy rights even if they cannot produce documentary evidence of status or the receipt against payment of rent for the land.

As in other developing countries, "absentee landlordism" is a major feature in the kingdom. The purpose of land reforms has so far been defeated by litigation spanning years.

The measure says that whether a tiller has cultivated land for some period will be decided by a commission set up by the government through a gazette notification.

While the ostensible purpose is to benefit the poorer farming section in the countryside, the promulgation just two months before the general election on the adult franchise basis is likely to prompt those outside the partyless panchayat field to see political motives.

Ninety-three per cent of Nepal's population of 14 million depends on agriculture for a livelihood.

The planning commission has, in its sixth plan document, underlined the need for major amendments to the land reforms act and for an end to "dual ownership" of farmland, which gives little incentive to tillers with unsecured tenancy rights.

The ordinance may be said to be the first step in a series of measures proposed by the government over the next five years or so to provide a better deal to tenants and farmers.

The planning commission says that credit facilities are more vital for tillers than tenancy rights. Through "due processes of law their chronic indebtedness must be ended, and provision made for soft credits to the needy sections."

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 81 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] Lately, there has been a surfeit of talkathon on administrative reforms. Indeed, this has been going on for three decades. But little has been done to overhaul the pre-independence services structure and promote administrative ethics. Only three years ago, a new civil service commission was set up. Its report is believed to be currently under the scrutiny of the Government. Meanwhile, some calculated leaks have appeared in the Press, hinting at the recommendations made in the Report, which have again sparked off a bitter controversy.

Basically the problem of the reform of administration in Pakistan centres around four main issues: first, its unchanged colonial legacy which ensured that the administration primarily served British imperial and political objectives; secondly, its unabashed "generalist" orientation which discouraged professionalism; thirdly, its elitist framework which ignored the well-being of the vast masses of people; and fourthly, its over-centralisation which had a baneful effect on the tone of administration.

The Administrative Reforms of 1973 did for the first time introduce some fundamental changes, such as the unification of the services, stress on professionalism and expertise, and clipping the wings of the amateur "generalist" class. But at the implementation stage the entire scheme of things flopped. As for the latest Civil Service Commission Report, it is believed to have called for the promotion of professionalism in the services. Yet no tangible move is in sight to alter the "generalist" orientation of public servants.

It is imperative for the Government now to opt for a realistic strategy to bring about administrative reforms. And this cannot be left to the administrators. A concerted endeavour is needed to resolve the four-fold administrative problem which we have identified. The Administration must be made accountable to the people; it must be made professional to meet the challenge of this technological age; it must be egalitarian in spirit so that it may serve the people; again, it must be decentralised to end dyarchy which breeds tensions in Centre-province relations.

It also needs to be stressed that the Civil Service Commission Report should be made public without delay and the full text of the government's resolution on the Report should be released. This should be followed up by creating a professional Task Force outside the Administration to implement the new proposals. Their chief object should be to end wastage of our talented manpower comprising scientists, engineers, economists, doctors, technologists, and other professionals. The civil service should be thoroughly revamped to create an efficient system geared to the service of the nation and committed to the material and moral well-being of the people.

CSO: 4220

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CHINA FOR CHEMICAL PLANT NEAR KARACHI

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] The visiting Chinese industries delegation yesterday signed an agreement with a local private firm for the supply of 7.5 million dollars worth of heavy machinery for setting up a chemical manufacturing plant near Karachi.

The agreement was signed by Mr Ju Yanlu of China National Complete Plant Export Corporation and Mr Bijaz Akhtar of the K.D.C. Chemicals Limited.

Sheikh Rafiq Akhtar, a former Federal Minister, who is Chairman of the K.D.C. Group of Industries, said later that the entire project would cost about 25 million U.S. dollars (about Rs 25 crore).

The leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr Ju Yanlu said this was a big project for which China would be supplying heavy machinery. He added that the delegation had signed similar agreements with other private companies in Lahore and Islamabad for supplying heavy machinery for caustic soda, motorcycle tires, and the tube valve manufacturing units.

The agreement signed yesterday envisages the setting up of a plant for producing oxygen gas, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, hydrochloric acid, hydrogen peroxide, and other chemicals on commercial scale.

Mr Ju Yanlu said this agreement would pave the way for greater cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of industrial development.

He described his current visit to Pakistan as "very fruitful," adding that the "sapling now planted would become a big tree and give fruits in the shape of chemical products. [as published]

China would supply the heavy machinery for the plant on easy terms on a no-profit basis.

Mr Ju Yanlu expressed the hope that the project would be finally approved by the governments of the two country.

He praised the progress of work at the Taxila units set up with the Chinese assistance.

The leader of Chinese delegation said it was the policy of his government to work with both public and private sectors in Pakistan for the sake of rapid industrialisation. His delegation was visiting Pakistan in response to a number of inquiries made by the Pakistani private companies about the possibility of mutual cooperation in various fields.

"We found our friends in Pakistan interested mostly in chemicals and rubber plants," he added.

The delegation would leave for Islamabad today. They would also visit Peshawar for a week before their return to Beijing.--APP

CSO: 4220

SETBACK FOR PPP IN PUNJAB

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Apr 81 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ghulam Hussain]

[Text] Lahore, March 31--The defunct People's Party has suffered a great setback in the Punjab province, and at least 20 percent of its supporters have defected after its direct involvement in terrorist acts has been established beyond doubt.

The party could possibly continue to have a soft corner in the hearts of the Punjab people for quite some time but, after hijacking of the PIA plane and killing of a young diplomat in Kabul, a great number of PPP admirers and sympathizers have deserted this party.

The vast majority of our people which is patriotic and Islam loving, restoration of democracy but cannot support the adventurists and terrorists, working against Pakistan and its Islamic ideology as puppets of those powers which want Pakistan to give up its principled stand on certain issues.

The fact that the defunct People's Party has lost political supports after the hijacking of PIA plane is also evident from a recent referendum, held in Sulej Cotton Mills, Okara, for choosing a collective bargaining agent. The Pak Labour Union--a labour union of the defunct Jamaat Islami Pakistan led by its member Rao Qudrat Ali--defeated the Textiles Workers Union of defunct PPP led by Abdur Salam by 901 votes. The defunct Jamaat Islami Union got 2,138 votes whereas the PPP Union got only 1,237 votes.

Humiliating Defeat

It would be interesting to note that the labour force is considered to be closer to defunct People's Party, which has been claiming that the labour is its natural constituency. The humiliating defeat of the defunct PPP at the hands of labour is indicator of the fact that all Pakistanis, irrespective of their class and caste have seen through its game.

According to political observers here, the defunct People's Party has been almost doomed in the Punjab which was considered to be its bastion of power. After the labour, the lawyers have also realised that to support the defunct PPP or the so-called MRD is to oppose Pakistan, and not a single lawyer has boycotted the courts here or elsewhere in the Punjab.

CSO: 4220

EDITORIAL DISCUSSES ALLEGED GIFTS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 6 Apr 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Something Beyond 'Fantastic'"]

[Text] The word fantastic sounds rather mild in the headline of a story published in an English daily of Islamabad, which said that two Pakistanis residing in Dubai allegedly have sent 1,944 Suzuki vans worth about 302 million rupees for their children and relatives under the gift scheme. One of them is said to have gifted 1,296 vans to his wife and four children through an automobile company of Karachi. He paid an amount of 19,44,000 (as printed) dollars to the Suzuki Motor Company of Japan. The other was less generous and contented himself with only 648 Suzuki vans, which cost him 972,000 dollars, for his three nephews and two nieces. Though it has not been mentioned how long these two devoted-to-wife-children-nephews-nieces gentlemen took to complete the shipment of their gifts, the number of vans and the amount of money they have spent are by all standards beyond the scope of the word "fantastic." The ten ladies and gentlemen who are the beneficiaries of the gift would have to spend millions on the maintenance of the automobile fleet which should be as big as the stable of the great Mughals of Delhi whose empire spread from Ras Kumari in south to the heights of Himalayas in the north. Not only that it is a monumental fraud on the national exchequer--for obviously the vehicles were intended to be traded--but it is indeed an unparalleled example of colossal waste of national resources in a poor country like Pakistan which, in the words of one of our correspondents whose letter appeared in our yesterday's issue under the caption 'Investment by overseas Pakistanis,' has become "a near-permanent beggar." We agree with the correspondent that the reason for this state of things is the "astronomical level of abuse by bureaucrats, politicians and their friends." The question here arises: How could such a vast number of vans be imported by two individuals under the gift scheme? Could it be possible to get the gift cleared from the Customs without the connivance of the bureaucrats or the politicians or their friends? Of course not.

In 1979 a big scandal regarding the import of synthetic yarn and cars had come to light, and some petty Government officials had to bear all the blame. As a result, a few officials were sacked but, as far as we know, no action is said to have been taken against the high-ups. If the head of

the ministry was innocent, he was morally bound to present himself for accountability and set an example for others to follow.

The way the present regime moved immediately after assuming power in 1977, proclaimed that no one, however high the office he held, was above law. The nation was happy that in the eyes of law, there was no difference between Mehmood and Ayaz. They stood as equals just as they bowed together before the Almighty. Are these 1,944 vans part of those illegal transactions? If not, how this new scandal has cropped up, is a matter which calls for immediate investigation by the highest authorities with a view to giving exemplary punishment to the culprits.

The overseas Pakistanis are Pakistanis afterall. The money they are earning is undoubtedly theirs. They have the right to spend the way they like. But they cannot have the freedom to spend it so as to harm the interests of their own homeland. It amounts to treason. The nation is proud of those who are earning abroad and remitting huge amounts of foreign exchange to their homeland thereby helping it to overcome its present difficulties. There are people who have been investing their savings in productive channels. The Government, on its part, is providing all facilities for such overseas Pakistanis so that they could associate themselves with the development activities of the country. It is not anything for which one should thank them; they are only fulfilling their obligation. But those who indulge in activities which can retard or distort national development or defraud the Government of crores in taxes, deserve to be punished and punished severely. The guilt of their accomplices is as serious as their own. The entire matter has got to be looked at from this angle and the culprits must be given exemplary punishment.

CSO: 4220

THREE-YEAR POPULATION WELFARE PLAN REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 81 p 4

[Text] Islamabad, March 27: The following are the remaining part of the guiding principles rationale and salient features of the Three-Year Population Welfare Plan explained last night by Adviser to the President Dr Mrs Attiya Inayatullah (partly reported in Friday's MORNING NEWS).

During the plan period 1981-83, additional 350 centres will be opened. All efforts will be made to provide to these 1250 family welfare centres essential medicines. Complete arrangements will be made for prenatal and post natal medical care of the mother and the child, particularly undernourishment due to unbalanced and insufficient diet will be checked. Mothers who cannot adequately feed their children due to ill health will be provided with food and medical help. It is hoped 50 per cent children will be fully immunised.

It has been observed that due to lack of hygienic environments most of our children are prone to catch stomach and chest diseases. It has, therefore, been planned that whilst the Government has launched a campaign for potable water and the expanded immunisation scheme, mothers will be educated in simple and effective ways of treating these ailments through 'do it yourself kits.' These centres will also have arrangements to carry out blood pressure, blood and other simple tests.

In view of the traditional role of dais in our society as birth attendants, about 5,000 of them will be trained by 1983 with a view to introducing safer child birth and mother care. Every family welfare centre will have a family welfare worker (LHV) a Dai and other essential paramedical staff. In complicated cases arrangements for medical assistance will be made available through about 350 hospitals. This will be in addition to reproductive health extension services which will, on the request of responsible locals, be made available at the doorsteps through mobile services which will be headed by a qualified gynecologist. During the plan period under the population welfare programme about 800 doctors will also be trained in reproductive health to enable them to attend to infertility cases, women's ailments and dispense responsible parenthood services.

Training

Another important aspect of the programme is the training of the existing 8,000 programme personnel of the Population Welfare Division, so that they become

public servants in the real sense. As I have mentioned before, the entire system will hinge on the participation and cooperation of the public, the local leaders will be expected to shoulder a number of voluntary responsibilities. Through the volunteer committees the family welfare centres efforts will be made to give women their rightful place in society so that they can work shoulder to shoulder with men in the overall welfare of the country. Local leaders and councillors will also be given training courses to acquaint them with the working of the population welfare programme. Special orientation will be imparted in the concept of planning, programming, financial management, implementation and monitoring of family welfare centres. In all, about 50,000 such persons shall during the plan period be given orientation in population welfare, for this purpose contacts have been established in all four provinces with elected councillors and local leaders, the results have been most encouraging.

It is a basic supposition in the plan that all services concern the welfare of the general and the programme endeavours to socially mobilize the nation. As such, the support of governmental, non-governmental and professional organizations, such as the four provincial governments, WAPDA, Railways, PIA Fauji Foundation, Pakistan Steel Mills, etc has been enlisted. In other words, the plan has been fully coordinated and dovetailed with developmental activities in the country.

Population Study

In pursuance of the Government's policy to vocationalise higher education, two population study centres will be set up in Faisalabad and Karachi universities to impart specialization in the subject of population development and demography. Diploma holders from these centres will be provided employment in the population welfare programmes.

The plan also envisages the use of the media for promoting population welfare concepts. The special themes selected for this plan period are: male role and father's responsibility in family life, importance of lactation and breast feeding, advocacy of late marriage, improvement in status of women mother and child health and nutrition of the growing child.

Another dimension of the plan is that its scope has been widened to provinces, districts, villages and target population so that the services should reach the entire populace. Hitherto, its scope was limited to the Federal level. In this way, chances of success of the plan have been greatly increased.

The plan will cater to the health and social care needs of Pakistan's 16 million mothers and 14 million children during 1981-83. In plan implementation your cooperation is essential not only in terms of a concerned attitude but active participation will be necessary for the fulfilment of the objectives of this programme.

The pivotal point of the programme is the involvement of the community and family through local leadership, specially the elected councillors who will have both responsibility and the authority to supervise implementation of this plan through and with their communities.

The population welfare plan is a part of the broad effort undertaken by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to create an ideological welfare state. At the same time it is also our collective responsibility to achieve the objective of the plan through united efforts. Thus we will be laying the foundation for a better and a prosperous future for the coming generations. And by so doing, we shall Inshallah be able to overcome our domestic and internal problems and difficulties and meet the basic needs of our localities, areas, villages and towns in terms of the population in these places. We shall be in a position to take appropriate and timely steps to meet the challenge of the circumstances today and in the years to come. To face and improve the conditions we look forward to your valuable advice and we invite you to ask for information of all kinds regarding our population welfare programme. Do please contact the department of population welfare and help us with your ideas and suggestion. We shall be always happy to serve you in every possible manner. May God bless our efforts and accept your endeavours.--APP

CSO: 4220

ATTIYA UNFOLDS POPULATION WELFARE PLAN

Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 26: The Adviser to the President on Population, Dr Mrs Attiya Inayatullah, explained the guiding principles, rationale and salient features of the three-year Population Welfare Plan in a talk telecast and broadcast over T.V. and Radio here this evening.

She said that the Plan is a part of the broad efforts undertaken by President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq to create an ideological welfare State.

The Plan, she said, will cater to the health and social care needs of Pakistan's 16 million mothers and 14 million children during 1981-83. She said that the pivotal point of the programme is the involvement of the community and family through local leadership, especially the elected Councillors, who will have both responsibility and the authority to supervise implementation of this Plan through and with their communities.

The Adviser to the President said that the Plan endeavours to socially mobilise the nation and has been fully coordinated and dovetailed with development activities in the country.

The salient features of the Plan are:

1. The Plan will provide hundred per cent cover to child and mother by 1983 through official, non-official and individual efforts.
2. During the Plan period 350 population welfare centres will be opened. At present, there are 90 centres which are not enough.
3. Fifty per cent children will be fully immunised.
4. Mothers will be educated in simple and effective ways of treating the ailments through "do it yourself kits."
5. About five per cent of Dais will be trained by 1983 with a view to introducing safer child birth and mother care.
6. Every family welfare centre will have a family welfare worker.

7. Services of a Dai and other essential para-medical staff will be made available through about 350 hospitals.

8. About 800 doctors will be trained in reproductive health to attend to infertility cases, women's ailments and dispense responsible patenthood services. [as published]

9. Existing 8,000 programme personnel of the Population Welfare Division will be trained, so that they become public servants in the real sense.

10. About 5,000 local leaders and Councillors will be imparted special orientation in the concept of planning, programming, financial management, implementation and monitoring of family welfare centres.

11. Two population study centres will be set up in Faisalabad and Karachi Universities to impart specialisation in the subject of population development and demography.--APP/PPI.

CSO: 4220

BALUCHISTAN UPLIFT PROGRAM REVIEWED

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 81 p 4

[Text] QUETTA, April 5:
Baluchistan development programme for the current financial year totalling Rs. 408 million, was reviewed in a marathon session held here today under the chairmanship of Governor Baluchistan, Lt.-Gen Rahimuddin Khan.

The meeting was attended by the Adviser to the Governor Raja Ahmad Khan; Chief Secretary, Shiekh Jamil Ahmad, all the development secretaries, Deputy Martial Law Administrator, Divisional Commissioners and Federal Inspector-General (Projects) performance for the last three quarters in terms of financial and physical targets was evaluated.

The Additional Chief Secretary (Development), Mr. Salim Abbas Jilani, gave a brief resume of current year's progress and indicated likely allocation for next year's development programme. The progress with regard to implementation of Governor's directives that he had given during his field visits was also reviewed.

He told the meeting that the Federal Government had made a provision of Rs. 500 million for Baluchistan's annual development programme 1981-82.

The Governor was informed that up till February 1981 a sum of Rs 154 million had been utilized out of the total development outlay of Rs 408 million.

The progress in water sector was found most satisfactory. In this sector the Department of Irrigation had been able to consume the full allocated amount of Rs. 81.00 million.

The Governor exhorted the heads of development agencies while reviewing the sector-wise progress to frequently inspect the schemes to ensure that financial discipline was rigidly followed at all stages of planning and implementation of the schemes. Where works were slack due to inefficient and defaulting contractors prompt action should be taken against them even to the extent of blacklisting them. It was decided that in order to associate the elected councillors in the formulation of next year's ADP and to reflect the people's genuine aspirations in public welfare programmes, a two-day meeting will be held here on April 14 and 15. Among others, also be attended by the Chairmen of the District Councils of the province.

The Governor directed that all-out efforts should be made to encourage and promote football game throughout the province as Baluchistan used to be renowned for producing best football players in the Indo-Pak Sub-continent.

The Governor was informed that work on the setting up of TV booster at Sibi had been started and the project would be completed by June 1982 at a cost of Rs. 10 million.

The Governor directed that village 'melas' should be organized by the District Councils in order to provide healthy recreation for the rural folk. It was also decided that proper steps should be taken for the preservation of Muslim heritage and antiques in the province.—PPI

EXPERTS REVEAL REASONS FOR DECLINE IN EXPORTS TO WEST

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Article by M. Ziauddin]

[Text] Islamabad, March 18: Exports to Western Europe which contribute over 25 per cent to the country's total annual foreign trade earnings are reported to have started declining since early December.

According to international trade experts this declining trend in exports began emerging simultaneously with the soaring of U.S. dollar in the world money market in recent months.

Pak rupee is pegged to the U.S. dollar, which has recorded a year-to-year gain of 20 per cent against German mark, Swiss and French franc and Dutch guilder. Even the pound, which had been on a roll of its own because of Britain's high interest rates and North Sea oil, is reported to be under pressure from dollar.

While local exporters in general are reportedly concerned over gradual reversal in the export situation, which had improved a great deal over the past two years, carpet manufacturers and traders, in particular, are visibly disturbed. Export of this item is said to have fallen by 35 per cent in recent months. Business circles feel that if the trend continued, carpet exports would go down by 50 per cent by June 1981 as against an increase of 25 per cent in the previous year when the item fetched 222.1 million dollars and edged up to third position on the list of 10 top foreign exchange earners.

India's massive campaign launched in recent months to boost her carpet export is also said to have significantly reduced the demand of Pakistani carpets in markets otherwise considered as our exclusive areas.

In India, carpet exporters are offered 20 per cent rebate while their Pakistani counterparts get only 3.8 per cent. Also, India keeps on adjusting the value of her currency continuously in order to protect its export interests. These two factors, experts say have given an edge to Indian exporters over Pakistani exporters. It is reported that recent enquiries from West Germany have demanded a 25 per cent reduction in the export prices of carpets. And in the local market the prices of carpets are said to have fallen by 10-30 per cent in recent months as export demand started declining.

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN WILL NEED ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AID

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 1 Apr 81 p 4

[Article by Asif Ali]

[Excerpt] Quetta, March 31--The President of the World Bank, Mr Robert McNamara, has said that if Pakistan's economic performance continues as it has been in the recent past, it will need additional consortium aid which he hoped it would attain.

He was asked whether in the light of Pakistan's economic accomplishments he would favour for increased consortium aid to Pakistan.

About his briefing on Baluchistan development strategy in Quetta, he said main purpose of his visit was how the World Bank may assist Baluchistan in its development programme.

Asked if any specific sector came in depth discussion he said agriculture is the foundation of economy and we have laid more emphasis on it. He said associated with agriculture is the development of water and power sectors which have also evoked our attention at the discussion.

Later, talking to newsmen at the airport after the departure of the World Bank chief, Provincial Governor Lt-Gen Rahimuddin Khan told newsmen that basic documents for Baluchistan special development programme to be financed by the World Bank credit had already been given to them while detailed plans would be submitted to the world in due course for its consideration. He said the World Bank chief is appreciative of our financial requirement for development.

Baluchistan Governor Rahimuddin Khan has briefed the visiting World Bank President on potential and problems of Baluchistan development.

The Governor informed him that the work on laying out a Sui gas pipeline from a point near Shikarpur to Quetta was in progress. The project costing 900 million with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 270 million. He said the pipeline would pass through 10 principle cities and towns of Sind and Baluchistan to boost farm and factories production, generating better avenues of employment.

CSO: 4220

ANTI-STATE ELEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE SPARED

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Apr 81 p 8

[Article by Sattar Niazi]

[Text] **MULTAN, April 1:** Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi has demanded stern action against those who were out with their subversive activities in the country.

Addressing the annual meeting of "Madrasah Ashar-ul-Uloom" at Shejabad near Multan, he said that the elements using methods of violence and terrorism were enemies of the country and Islam and should not be spared at any cost. He said honour of Islam and Islamic ideology of Pakistan would be safeguarded at all costs.

ALLIANCE

Later, talking to newsmen, Maulana Niazi said that alliance between two defunct parties — Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan and Muslim League (Pagara Group) would aim at five points formula for safeguarding integrity, solidarity and ideology of Pakistan. He said that under the five-point formula a campaign would be launched to awaken people against elements who were out to create disturbances and terrorism in the country. He said the struggle would be continued for complete introduction of "Nizam-i-Mustafa" in Pakistan which has been achieved in the name of Islam.

He disclosed that for implementation of this five points formula, 10-member committees will be set up on equal representation basis, one each at Central and Provincial levels. Each committee will consist of five members from each party

and its conveners will be appointed through mutual consent. To achieve this aim, he added, that a joint line of action will be adopted for negotiations with the Government.

He hoped that an alliance would be made soon between all the parties who have full faith in Islam and Islamic ideology of Pakistan.

He said that he had talks with some leaders of defunct Jamiat-i-Islami and Sarder Qasim recently in Rawalpindi. He added that talks between Mir Pagara and some leaders of defunct Jamiat-i-Islami had also been held recently.

Mr Zaheer Ahmad, son of late Professor Maulvi Farid Ahmad, prominent leader of former East Pakistan, said that it was vital for patriotic people of Pakistan to play an important role for progress and prosperity of Pakistan and also face the anti-State elements like a cold and strong wall.

In a Press interview at Allpur in Muzaffargarh he said that the need of the hour in Pakistan was to frustrate all anti-State designs and no one, who was active in nefarious designs, be allowed to raise his head.

He said that the young generation in the country was an important factor and could play a vital role for safeguarding integrity, solidarity and ideology of Pakistan. He urged the youths to foil all the designs of enemies of the country and its Islamic ideology.

CONSPICUOUS CONSUMPTION, NEED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION NOTED

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Apr 81 pp 9, 14

[Article by Sultan Ahmed]

[Text] **SUPERMARKETS** are shooting up all over the new areas of Karachi. They are becoming status symbols of the trading sector in other major cities of the country as well. They are towers of our new commercialism.

A great many of these supermarkets are packed with imported goods, ranging from expensive confectionery to luxury food and drink items. Almost everything you want by way of manufactured goods is available in these and the surrounding shops.

Of course, not all these goods are imported through the normal commercial channels after paying the heavy duties and sales tax. Some of the goods are brought in by Pakistan's emigre workers, and some are the result of smuggling, not by the shops themselves but by their suppliers.

This is the picture when Pakistan's imports are twice as much as its exports. And if all the imported goods available in the shops all over the country and stored in the godowns had come through and normal commercial channel the import bill would have been far heavier.

The federal commerce secretary, Mr. Isharul Haq, expects the trade turn-over this year to rise to eight billion dollars from last year's seven billion dollars. But in view of the growing deficit in the foreign trade, in which the imports are rising much faster than exports, the government has

to be "very cautious in respect of the issuance of import licences," he says.

He has also taken note of the agitation of manufacturers in Pakistan against the liberal imports of an incredible variety of goods, and said import of consumer goods during the first half of this financial year constituted only 13 per cent compared to 18 per cent last year.

Raw materials

This, of course, cannot be reassuring the manufacturers in Pakistan as a fall in percentage does not mean a fall in the quantum of the imports. As the overall volume of imports has increased the percentage of the imported consumer goods has fallen to an extent.

Mr. Isharul Haq says that much of the liberalisation in imports has now taken place in the area of industrial raw materials and machinery in order to increase production. But this is an area which deserves critical attention so that import of needless raw materials does not take place.

Raw materials constituted 42.3 per cent of all the imports last year. As the percentage has risen this year it would be close to 45 per cent of the overall imports, which may be near to Rs. 8,500 crore.

How much of these vast quantities of raw materials go into real manufactures, and not mere peccary and assembling? And how much of these manufactures are

really essential or useful goods, and not superfluous items or wasted output? And how much of the manufactures are real quality goods that will last and give value for money, and for the heavy taxes, too, paid by the hard pressed consumers in Pakistan?

This element has not received the serious attention of the authorised and other agencies, although the import of raw materials has risen from 24.4 per cent of all the overall imports in 1971-72 to 42.3 per cent last year. In terms of money imports rose from Rs 85 crore in 1971-72 to about Rs. 1,800 crore last year.

While the import of raw materials shot up steadily over the years, did the import of consumer goods go down simultaneously? No. Instead, it went up by 10.7 per cent of the overall imports in 1970-71 to 22.8 per cent in 1979-80, but following the distinct improvement in the crops last year and the reduction in the import of edible oil, it came down to 18 per cent. And during the first six months of this financial year the import of consumer goods was only 13 per cent, says the Commerce Secretary.

Poor industrial growth

If the percentage of the import of industrial raw materials as well consumer goods has gone up very substantially, where has been the fall? In the import of the capital goods for setting up new materials for manufacturing capi-

dustrics, and in the import of raw materials. In fact, one follows the other. When setting up of new industries becomes too slow the demand for capital goods slackens. And when that happens the import of raw materials for manufacturing capital goods falls. What we get then is industrial stagnation, low production and high prices all round, as we have now.

This is reflected in the poor industrial growth figures for the last ten years, beginning 1960-70. The index of large scale manufacturing during this period has gone up by only 44 points—a despairing average of 4.4 points per year.

Contrast this bare 44 per cent growth in large scale manufacturing in ten years with the enormous increase in the import of raw materials by the same sector—in quantitative terms about four times more than what we imported in 1971-72. And now we are told the trade deficit has increased by 40 per cent over last year's. So we have to look into our imports more critically.

The disparity between the import of raw materials and the manufacture of goods is possibly explained by the great deal of manufacturing that takes place in Pakistan without reporting to the government and without paying the heavy excise duty and sales tax.

This is not the only serious distortion in the economy. A study of the Gross National Product shows that the share of commodity producing sector has been coming down over the years—from 58.41 per cent in 1969-70 to 44.8 per cent last year. The share of the agricultural production sunk from 38.88 per cent to 29.8 per cent even in an exceptionally good year like last year. While the mining and quarrying sector is almost constant at around only half a per cent for the last ten years, the manufacturing sector has come down from 18 per cent in 1969-70 to 13 per cent of the GNP in 1979-80.

Where have all the increases gone then? In the services sector, which is only partly productive which has risen from 44.58 per cent to 49.58 per cent of the GNP, and in the remittances of Pakistan workers, which rose from 9.01 per cent in 1969-70 to 5.65 per cent of the GNP last year.

That largely explains the sustained price inflation in the country. Agricultural production and industrial outputs fall as components of GNP but the services sector expands steadily and rapidly. The gap between demand and supply inevitably expands fast. Added to that is the sustained increase in money supply, the steady rise in taxes and the heavy deficit financing resorted to over the years, reaching the peak of Rs 809 crore in 1978-79. Above all that comes the remittances of Pakistan's emigre workers, which is around Rs 2,000 crore through the banking channel, and about Rs 600 crore more through non-official channels. Goods for about Rs 400 crore too are brought into the country by the workers to be sold at higher prices and the money used is for current consumption or investment on houses, land etc.

IMF advice

Inevitably the gap between demand and supply becomes too large. So, even after import twice as much as we export, we are advised by the International Monetary Fund to import more and are provided with the largest credit given by it to any country—1.6 billion dollars over a period of three years—to enable us to do that. And we are forced to borrow 300 million dollars more from a consortium of commercial banks as short term credit, too, to meet our balance of payments deficit.

The fact is that if we cannot or do not produce more, but are having too much money, whether locally generated or brought in by the migrant workers, we have to import more to obtain a better balance that between goods and the money, or the demand and supply.

It is one thing to import the basic or essential items, and quite another to import the non-essential or superfluous, whether that be in the form of finished consumer goods, or raw materials to make them locally, if together they constitute 67 per cent of the overall imports. It is here that the issue of conspicuous consumption or, in fact, ostentatious consumption—which is getting to be in vogue in the

affluent sections of our society—becomes a major issue.

Compare the picture with India's next door. While Pakistan's imports in the current financial year are expected to be around Rs 1,500 crore, India with a population eight times that of ours will have imports of Rs 1,300 crore. Even allowing for the higher exchange rate of the Indian rupee, the total will be only Rs 11,600 crore in our terms. This is happening as India's oil import bill has jumped to Rs 5,600 crore from Rs 1,877 crore two years ago. So the import of non-oil items by India this year will be Rs 5,700 crore, while Pakistan's non-oil imports will be around Rs 4,000 crore.

But the scope for reduction of the imports by Pakistan is not there right now as our production is low while our consumption is high, and conspicuous consumption is promoted by even the official media, like PTV and Radio Pakistan. And the emigrants want to live it up when they come home and their relations to live far better than they used to. That means more consumption.

Above all, the government has an immediate vested interest in larger imports. It had estimated to collect a customs duties for Rs 1,375 crore and sales tax for Rs 301 crore this year even before the additional taxes of Rs 233 crore were levied.

Clearly we have evolved an economic pattern in which consumption is far more than production, and a high style of living is getting to be common along with a low rate of productivity. It is a kind of situation in which if we do not import more the poor will be hit harder, and the corrupt elements will make up for reduced imports through large scale smuggling, which it is not very modest even now. So, while some individuals will become richer the state will be the poorer for it.

The solution clearly lies in increasing production rapidly in both the agricultural and industrial sectors. The need of the hour is a right mix of proper goals, sound policies, reliable programmes and simple procedures. Enlarging the service sector unthinkingly, non-productive employment or wasteful production will only aggravate the situation and not make it better. Hence the proliferation of the supermarkets and their well laden shelves and similar glitter elsewhere in the consumer sector should not obscure the gravity of our economic problem or the basic economic issues before us.

WEALTHY ASKED TO LEAD MORE AUSTERE LIFE

Karachi DAWN in English 5 Apr 81 p 7

[Editorial: "Not by Exhortation Alone"]

[Text]

THE Federal Minister for Labour has asked government officers to lead an austere life. It is not for the first time that such a call has come and will presumably go unheeded. Surely, there is a good deal of sense in the plea but the reason why it has not evoked any response is the lack of sincerity and example to reinforce a real commitment. When an appeal for simplicity is issued at a luxuriously held public function, as so often happens, its hollowness becomes self-evident. Even if the setting is superficially arranged to suit the occasion, those present can see through the facade and those absent are apt to remain untouched by the rhetoric.

This does not, however, mean that a good cause should not be preached or pleaded for. But in this country, or for that matter elsewhere, the ruling classes make or mar the rules and their modes and manners set the vogue and tone. Our new rich

classes and administrative elites have generally adopted a life style which mocks the very concept of austerity. The new rich class seeks palatial mansions when the ordinary people cannot afford to purchase a modest little house. It demands glittering limousines when the ordinary people do not have the benefit of an adequate public transport system. The conspicuous consumption of a small minority is manifesting itself in a thousand and one ways. It has become a major source of official corruption. The urge to keep up with the Joneses creates a compulsion to raise money by means fair or foul. And we have people who are seen to be living beyond their ostensible means. It is difficult to see how a mere exhortation to the people to shun false values and to embrace austerity can work in this kind of environment. Mere articulation of an egalitarian philosophy is not enough. What is needed is to live by it.

NEW MARKETING FOR LPG CYLINDERS STARTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] A first project of its type in Pakistan, envisaging manufacture of cylinders for marketing LPG (liquefied gas) has been launched by Fauji Foundation and submitted to Investment Promotion Bureau for sanction.

The project is understandably linked with the fast-expanding consumption of LPG in domestic and commercial sectors. At present there are three LPG marketing companies viz Burshane, Fongas and Indus Gas. The total number of cylinders available with these companies is estimated at 207,400 (numbers). According to a survey, the demand for LPG from domestic and commercial sectors has the ratio of 70:30. The availability of LPG for the domestic sector is likely to increase from the present quantum of 11,200 tons to around 35,000 tons by 1986-87. It is pointed out that for the marketing of one ton of LPG, about 5.5 cylinders would be required. Assuming rotation and withholding period of cylinders at consumers' end, it is estimated that 8.8 cylinders would be required for the marketing of one ton of LPG. On this basis, the future requirements of cylinders are projected to increase from 98,560 numbers of 11 Kg each for domestic uses to 308,000 numbers by 1986-87. Additionally, the demand from commercial sector would be in the region of one lakh cylinders of 45 Kg each, per annum. Thus, the demand for cylinders is expected to increase to 400,000 numbers by 1986-87, while the actual availability at present is in the vicinity of 200,000 cylinders with the three marketing companies. Thus, the gap in the supply of cylinders of required sizes is likely to widen in the next couple of years which in turn justifies the feasibility for the establishment of a cylinder manufacturing unit.

The proposed project, to be established at Rawalpindi, would have the designed capacity to manufacture 700 cylinders of 11kg and 45kg per day in three shifts. On this basis, the annual production in three shifts, would come to 210,000 cylinders of both 11kg and 45kg sizes per annum (300 days).

The project involves a total cost of Rs. 25.730 million including the working capital of Rs. 3.062 million. The foreign exchange component of an estimated amount of Rs. 11.310 million which is proposed to be raised as a long term loan from foreign private sources. No foreign participation and technical assistance arrangement with foreigners are involved and therefore there is no need for remittance of technical fee or repatriation of profit abroad.

Of the total fixed cost of Rs. 22.668 million, the debt capital will be of the order of Rs. 18.010 million comprising Rs. 11.310 million in foreign exchange to be borrowed from abroad and Rs. 6.700 million in local currency, to be obtained from local financing agencies.

The annual recurring foreign exchange expenditure involving the import of raw materials is estimated at Rs. 9.91 million, which works out to 91 per cent of total raw materials required. In view of this, the project would require clearance from the ECC.

According to available information, a similar project was sponsored, back in 1972 in the private sector by Messrs Yusuf Industries Karachi which had set up all the primary facilities to manufacture LPG cylinders. The plant, which has the capacity to manufacture 200 cylinders per day, of 11 kg each, could not be commissioned commercially but the cylinders made during trial production, reportedly conformed to international standard specifications. The company had technical assistance agreement with a firm of Japan. The company, it is stated, could not arrive at a workable agreement with the LPG marketing companies and therefore the plant has so far remained inoperative.

The State Engineering Corporation is also reported to have chalked out plans to manufacture LPG cylinders of 11 kg at the Heavy Mechanical Complex, Taxila. Originally, the capacity, to be set up, will be for manufacturing one lakh cylinders per annum in three shifts.

It seems advisable that the plant at Karachi, established with technical assistance from a reputable Japanese firm, and which could not be brought into operation, may be taken over by new sponsors and thus it can be revived. This would contribute to savings of foreign exchange which otherwise would be involved in the establishment of an entire new plant. Moreover, the old plant which was established during pre-devaluation days, must have cost a relatively much lower amount than the cost of the proposed plant.

CSO: 4220

PAKISTAN TO GET FIRST DRY CARGO SHIP

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] Pakistan will get the delivery of the first of the three dry cargo ships under construction at a British shipyard some time during the third week of this month.

Rear Admiral A.W. Bhombar, Chairman of the Pakistan National Shipping Corporation, will receive the delivery of the 17,815 deadweight tonnage vessel from the Austin and Pickersgill Limited, Sunderland.

According to Mr Zafarul Haq Khan, Director, Technical of the PNSC, the engine trials of the vessels are scheduled for March 7 and the delivery of the vessel is expected to take place around April 15. The delivery of the remaining two cargo vessels m.v. Kaghm and m.v. Ayubia is expected to take place during the month of May and July respectively.

The cost of each ship under construction at the Sunderland in the UK will be 7.174 million pounds sterling.

Each of these ships will have a capacity of carrying 400 containers and a seervice speed of 15.9 knots an hour.

According to the agreement between the PNSC and the Sunderland shipyard about 44 percent cost of the vessels will be provided by the British Government as grant-in-aid to the Government of Pakistan. The remaining cost has been arranged against a guaranteed loan bearing an interest of 7.5 percent per annum.

Mr Zafar left early morning today to supervise the engine trials of the vessel.

APP adds:

The sources said that the PNSC had so far received seven out of 19 ships ordered under the replacement and modernisation plan of the fleet. Japan had delivered all the six ships and Denmark the only ship.

Poland is to provide eight ships and the first is expected in May next. One ship is being built in the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works.

CSU: 4220

SHORTAGE OF ELECTRIC POWER CRITICIZED

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 81 p 7

[Editorial: "What Price Power Shortage?"]

[Text] **T**HE Federal Water and Power Minister's strident assertion that there is no power shortage in the country is in sharp contrast to the complaint made by industry's representatives — that industrial production had dropped by 33 per cent because of power shortage in the SITE area, the single largest industrial area in the country. The Federal Minister concerned had said recently that there was no power shortage in the country and that the targets set by the Government for providing electricity to consumers would be met. The snag, of course is that targets are set according to the supply of electricity and do not in any sense reflect the demand for it. In fact, if the present rate of providing electricity to 1,000 villages a year is continued, then we will be well into the next century before even approaching the end of the line — out of an estimated 43,000 villages around 9,000 have been provided electricity so far. Better than any figures of power generating capacity and estimated

demand, this gives an idea of the massive power shortage which the country faces. The irony is that the power generation and distribution agencies in the country are making substantial profits at the same time. The Government seems to be fully aware of its monopoly in this area and, by arbitrarily raising tariffs every so often, has ensured that the agencies concerned end up with handsome profits for providing a service which is often poor and sometimes appalling. WAPDA ended up with a profit of over rupees 1,400 million in 1979-80, and even KESC, with its much smaller generating capacity, showed a handsome profit.

Coming back to the matter of industrial consumers, even if industrial representatives' claim of a 33 per cent fall in production in SITE is somewhat inflated, the actual picture will still be horrifying enough. This has been going on for several years now and, as a matter of fact, Karachi is possibly better off than the industrial concerns in some other cities — Hyderabad is

one example. Another point is that according to even the KESC people, this situation is going to persist for some years now. Even after commissioning of the 200 megawatt first unit at Pipri in late 1983 KESC will be able to meet only 670 MW of the projected demand of over 800 MW — an over 20 per cent shortfall by the most optimistic calculations. What this will mean for industry can well be imagined. Not only is there an actual fall in production, which is bad enough for the country's economy, but in a sense there is a double loss because installed machinery which could have been productive is being wasted. Nor is there any particular logic behind the demand of KESC bosses that industrial units tailor their operating hours, so that they are not working during the period when the demand for electricity is at its peak. This will mean the shutting down of an entire shift — a loss in production which is unacceptable. Moreover, some units may even be forced to close

down entirely or suffer heavy losses because profitability often depends on utilising machinery on which heavy capital expenditure has been made round the clock.

The Government and the agencies concerned will have to work out some other formula for ensuring that industry gets its full requirement of power without interruption. The obvious solution, of course, is to increase generating capacity without delay.

Pending that, other ways should be devised in which electricity can be saved and diverted towards the industrial sector. Better transmission is one way, since a large proportion of electricity is lost during transmission. Another suggestion made by the industrial representatives, that neon signs and so forth should be shut down, also merits consideration, although the amount of electricity saved in this way may not be much.

CSO: 4220

FIRST PHASE OF NATIONAL BIOGAS PLAN COMPLETED

Karachi DAWN in English 31 Mar 81 p 9

[Text] Islamabad, March 30: The first phase of the national biogas programme has been completed under which nearly 1,500 biogas units are expected to be in operation by the end of July this year.

The civil works of 800 biogas units have already been started which will provide biogas facilities to 125 villages in 14 districts. In addition, 500 to 600 units are being surveyed and will benefit eight more districts.

The task was undertaken by the Directorate General of Energy Resources, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, in December last under the special direction of President of Pakistan.

The strategy for the extensive programme was developed in consultation with the District Councils and the provincial Governments. Initially it was intended to install 1,200 biogas units in villages which are deficit in energy in the four provinces and in Azad Kashmir.

Energy Survey

The first phase of the programme constituted selection of villages in consultation with District Councils and the provincial Governments. This was to be followed by energy survey by the trained engineers of the Directorate General of Energy Resources.

On the basis of the energy survey, the Director-General, Energy Resources, was to sanction biogas units purely on technical merits and necessary actions were to be taken to float tenders for purchasing component of biogas units.

The Director-General of Energy Resources has sanctioned installation of biogas units in 125 villages in 14 districts. In Bahawalpur district 65 biogas units have been sanctioned in 4 villages. In Rahimyar Khan district, 220 biogas units have been sanctioned in 13 villages. In Sahiwal district, 65 biogas units have been sanctioned for 8 villages. In Sialkot district, 134 in six villages, Jhang 65 in 8 villages, Rawalpindi 102 in 31 villages, Faisalabad 125 units for 15 villages, Abbotabad 29 biogas units in 9 villages and 97 biogas units in Mansehra district. The civil work on 700 biogas units has started.

In addition to the above sanctioned units, another 500 to 600 units are being surveyed, in another 8 districts of the country.

Each biogas unit pays back its price in one year's use and has a life of at least 10 years. Each 1000 biogas units installed would save Rs 10 million to the State exchequer and over its life, 1000 units of biogas would save imports of kerosene, at current prices, of more than Rs 100 million.--APP

CSO: 4220

MORE AREA UNDER WHEAT CULTIVATION

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 31 Mar 81 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, March 30: The preliminary estimate for the year 1980-81 places the area under wheat crop at 69,20,600 hectares as compared to 69,11,600 hectares finally estimated last year, showing a rise of 0.13 per cent.

In Punjab, the area under wheat crop for the year 1980-81 is placed at 49,58,100 hectares which shows a nominal increase of 0.13 per cent over finally estimated area of 49,51,600 hectares for the preceding year.

The increase in area is due to attractive wheat price, early maturity of cotton crop and widespread rains during the sowing season. Better supply position of wheat seed also encouraged the growers to bring more area under wheat.

The interest-free loans advanced for the purchase of fertilizer, improved the purchasing capacity of the growers and enhanced its use.

In Sind the area under wheat has been estimated at 10,26,700 hectares against 10,26,500 hectares over the last year.

A nominal increase of 0.02 per cent is attributed to attractive prices of wheat and the wheat policy announced by the Government. Partial damage of cotton crop forced the growers to go for wheat to compensate the loss and to "grow more wheat" campaign launched by the Agriculture Department.

In NWFP the preliminary estimate places the area under wheat crop at 7,46,000 hectares against 7,45,400 hectares finally estimated last year registering an increase of 0.08 per cent over the previous year. The increase in area is due to favourable weather conditions and diversion of gram areas towards wheat.

In Baluchistan the area under the crop is placed at 1,89,800 hectares which is 0.90 per cent more than the previous year.

CSO: 4220

FALL IN RICE OUTPUT REPORTED

Karachi DAWN in English 6 Apr 81 p 4

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, April 6: The production of rice during the year 1980-81, has registered a decrease of 4.8 per cent, according to the second estimate released by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture here recently.

The area under rice crop stands at 1,912,100 hectares which is 6.0 per cent less than the previous year's final estimate of 2,038,500 hectares. Similarly, preliminary estimate of production shows a decrease of 4.8 per cent and is estimated at 3,063,000 tonnes as against previous year's final estimate of 3,215,800 tonnes.

In the Punjab, the area under crop stands at 1,234,200 hectares which is 10.6 per cent less than last year's final estimate of 1,379,600 hectares. The decrease in area is attributed to comparatively low returns from rice and consequent diversion of own area to sugarcane, and dry weather conditions at the sowing time of irri varieties.

The rainy season during July and August was favourable for basmati plantation but the heavy flooding damaged the rice nurseries and newly planted rice areas.

The preliminary estimate places the production of crop at 1,350,300 tonnes which is 11.1 per cent less than the last year's final estimate of 1,518,400 tonnes. The decrease in production is attributed to decrease in area.

In Sind, the area under rice crop shows a negligible increase of 0.1 per cent this year. It is estimated at 746,900 hectares as against

746,600 hectares reported in the final estimate for the year 1979-80. Likewise the production also indicates a nominal rise of 0.2 per cent.

It is estimated at 1,502,500 tonnes this year as compared to 1,499,100 tonnes reported in the final estimate of last year. This increase is due to increase in area under the crop, favourable climatic conditions and adequate supply of inputs.

In NWFP the area under rice crop, is estimated at 68,000 hectares as compared to 62,300 hectares in the previous year. This shows an increase of 9.0 per cent. The production also indicates an increase of 2.6 per cent.

It is estimated at 107,600 tonnes, according to the preliminary estimate as compared to 104,700 tonnes finally reported last year.

The increase in area and production is due to high market prices of rice, favourable weather conditions at the time of sowing, heavy use of more fertilizer and adoption of plant protection measures also contributed to the increase of output.

In Baluchistan the area and production for the year 1980-81 have been estimated at 43,400 hectares and 102,800 tonnes respectively as against 42,100 hectares and 91,600 tonnes of last year. This shows an increase in production by 3.1 and 9.8 per cent respectively as compared to the final estimate of the last year.—APP.

BRIEFS

CHROMITE DEPOSITS--Quetta, March 25:--Chromite deposits in commercial quantity have been found in Lasbella district in Baluchistan. According to official sources, a project costing over Rs seven million had been sanctioned to mine 1,500 tonnes of chromite initially per year. The chromite industry in Lasbella district will generate employment avenues, besides providing sizeable surplus for export when fully developed.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 26 Mar 81 p 5]

PRECIOUS STONES SEIZED--Lahore, March 26--The Lahore Airport Customs yesterday seized contraband precious and semi-precious stones worth about Rs five lakh in one of the biggest such swoops at the airport. The Customs sources said that the Deputy Collector of Custom, Mr Mohammad Suleman, received an information that some foreign nationals were trying to smuggle some precious stones into Pakistan from India. The Assistant Collector of Customs at the airport, Mr Abdul Hafiz Khan, formed a party to search the passengers matching the description provided to him, and thorough search of the luggage of nine Afghan nationals travelling by the flight revealed that they were carrying the stones in hidden cavities of and false bottoms of their luggage. The luggage, when torn open, released dazzling emeralds, pearls, cultured pearls (as published), rubies, garments (as published) and amethysts. The nine accused Mohammad Rahim, Walas Khan, Tazaddin, Akhon Gul, Sher Agha A. Bashir, Mohammad Mohsin, Syed Hasan and Said Mohmood were arrested under the Customs Act and investigation are on.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 81 p 4]

CONTRABAND WHISKY SEIZED--Contraband whisky--1149 bottles--were seized from MV "Hellenic Explorer" now docked at West Wharf by Customs Rummaging Staff as "undeclared stuff." Besides, some other items were also found in the possession of the Chief Steward, Chief Cook and a Pakistani crew member of the vessel. The whisky was concealed in the cartons of beer which was shown in the stocks but was really missing and might have been disposed of the customs said. [as published] In another case, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of ASF was caught handing over a packet containing Pakistani and foreign currencies worth Rs 17,000 to an out-going passenger near the gangway of a plane. The ASF Officer and the passenger have been detained for further investigations, the customs disclosed yesterday. A passenger was also caught minutes before he was to board a Dubai-bound aircraft for possessing 18 electronic Drop-out fuses worth about Rs 50,000, by the Airport Customs. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 27 Mar 81 p 11]

CHROMITE DEPOSITS FOUND--Quetta, April 5--Chromite deposits in commercial quantity have been found in Baluchistan in the Lasbela district. Official sources said that initially a project, costing over Rs. seven million, had been sanctioned to mine 1,300 tons of chromite initially per year. The chromite industry in the Lasbela district will generate employment avenues besides providing sizeable surplus for export when fully developed. Meanwhile, NWFP Finance Minister Salim Saifullah had said in D.I. Khan that an initial survey of the Bisham area in Kohistan district of the NWFP had been carried out to determine the existence of minerals. Addressing a Press conference he said that the initial survey had revealed the availability of various minerals worth over Rs. 1,000 crore in the area. In this connection, he said that work on the exploitation of 15 million tons of phosphate in Hazara division was already in progress.--APP [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Apr 81 p 3]

SMUGGLERS HELD--The Customs squad, Nowshera, under the supervision of Mir Ahmad Khan, Deputy Superintendent, raided two trucks on G.T. and seized foreign cloth, motor-vehicle spare parts, batteries and crockery worth Rs 6 lakh. The goods were being smuggled to Punjab. Three alleged smugglers, Amin, Shirin and Ishaq, were arrested. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Mar 81 p 4]

DELAYS IN BULGARIAN PROJECTS--Islamabad, March 18--Six projects started in the NWFP in 1976 with the help of Bulgarian loans are reported to be still incomplete and five of them standing the chance of being wound up, a reliable source told THE MUSLIM here today. The 3.5 million dollar Bulgarian loans was advanced to Pakistan in 1976 for setting up four cold storages in Mardan, Haripur, Peshawar and Mingora and a leather tannery and glucose plant in Jahangira. While only one cold storage in Mingora was commissioned about three months ago, the work on the rest has been suspended for indefinite period owing to financial reasons. Pakistani workers and 20 Bulgarian engineers working on the Jahangira Tannery unit are said to be without any occupation for the past many months. The loan, which carries an interest of 2.5 per cent, was to be repaid in 12 years. While half of the period has already elapsed the chances of commissioning the remaining five units are said to be remote. The source further said of late the government had been considering to hand over the incomplete units to private parties for which negotiations were said to be in progress. Official sources when contacted to explain the delay in finalising the projects said it was due to some financial constraints and the projects had to be completed according to a phased programme. Yet another source disclosed that the "unpardonable delay" was due to bureaucratic tangles and the slow moving of the files. According to experts the projects should have been put in operation in 1979 which would have yielded enough funds not only to cover the cost in the local money but would have enabled the government to repay a part of the loan. But the most salutary effect would have been on the locals who could get jobs in the units resulting in overall prosperity of the area. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Mar 81 p 1]

SEIZURE OF WHISKY SMUGGLERS--Rahimyar Khan, March 20--The Desert Rangers arrested two Indian smugglers and seized 280 bottles of Indian Whisky, 50 kg of tea and small quantity of cloth. This was disclosed here yesterday by Maj Khurshid Akber, Desert Rangers wing Commandant here yesterday. He said secret information was received on Wednesday morning that Indian smugglers were going to enter Pakistan along with liquor and other articles. He arranged a raiding party and

arrested two culprits Nabi Bakhsh and Waryam of Jodhpur (India) and seized smuggled goods worth about Rs 50,000. A case has been registered against the smugglers on the charge of unlawful entry into Pakistan and smuggling.--APP [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Mar 81 p 6]

COTTON CULTIVATION IN BALUCHISTAN--The research work carried out recently has revealed that there is a "great scope" for cotton cultivation in Baluchistan, PPI reliably learnt here. Under the latest research and tests made by the Federal Government the areas have been identified for the cotton growth in that province. According to official sources, Pat Feeder is one of the areas where this crop can be successfully grown provided the irrigation water is supplied on time. It is understood that the Federal Government is taking up the matter with the Provincial Government about the cotton cultivation and will discuss matter relating to water supply position. Minister of State for Food and Agriculture in his first meeting with the officials of his Ministry in Karachi last week also exchanged views on the possibility of growing cotton in Baluchistan.--PPI [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 31 Mar 81 p 7]

BUMPER COTTON CROP--Islamabad, March 30--The country produced a bumper cotton crop in 1979-80 surpassing all previous records and reached 4.20 million bales, showing a sharp rise of 57.8 per cent over the last year. According to the latest official figures, increase in area, favourable weather conditions, adoption of appropriate cultural practices and low pest infestation and coordinated plant protection campaigns brought about a steep rise in cotton production. The production was higher by 29.3 per cent in 1979-80 compared with the annual average for 1970-79 and 75.9 per cent with the annual average for the sixties. The yield per hectare of cotton increased by 43.6 per cent 368 kgs in 1979-80 over the level of 1978-79. The area recorded a rise of 10.0 per cent to 2,081 million hectares in 1979-80. The rise was attributed to favourable weather conditions as well as attractive prices. When compared with the annual average for 1970-79 and the sixties, the area was up. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 31 Mar 81 p 7]

ARMS, AMMUNITION SEIZED--Lahore, March 25--The Moghulpura police have arrested a number of people including Nazir Ahmed, Councillor of Kotli Pir Abdur Rehman, and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunitions including automatic weapons, bombs, hand-grenades and explosives from their possession. Police also recovered uniforms of army, police, navy and mujahid force with badges inside the collars bearing name 'Al Zulfiqar.' Police action was taken on an information given by one Manzoor Elahi, arrested by the Southern Cantonment Police two days back for interrogation. He was taking photographs of VIP lounge at the Airport and on interrogation, posed himself to be a Superintendent of Police Intelligence wing. During police interrogation, the accused disclosed he was a member of "Al Zulfiqar." He informed police about the places where the arms and ammunition were kept. Police raid was supervised by the Assistant Commissioner and Superintendent of Police cantt. Some of the efficient police officials, including Inspectors of Model Town, Lyton road and Mozang police stations were hurriedly summoned to the Moghulpura Police Station and given the list of the saboteurs and their collaborators for arrest.--PPI [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Mar 81 p 8]

HALT TO RICE SMUGGLING--Sargodha, March 17--With the provincial Government taking a serious view of the large-scale smuggling of rice from the local market and surrounding areas (as reported by THE PAKISTAN TIMES on the 2nd of this month) habitual smugglers have suspended activities and the hitherto sleeping anti-smuggling police squads reportedly hired by the Food Department have suddenly woken up. The S.P. (anti-smuggling) himself swung into action and conducted operations near Bundiyal on the Sargodha-Mianwali Road last week. Three accused, Muhammad Saeed, Muhammad Rafique and notorious smuggler Sher Muhammad alias 'Sheran' of Ghazi Khel, were arrested. They were heading under the cover of darkness towards D.I. Khan with 120 bags of 'moonji' on a truck (No B.O. 8385), which was also seized. The case is being investigated. In another successful raid police caught truck No B.O. 9225 loaded with 100 bags of 'moonji.' The truck, belonging to habitual rice smugglers, after loading from Quaidabad market was on its way towards the NWFP. Four men, Muhammad Riaz, Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Iqbal along with the truck owner, were arrested. They have been remanded to police custody for further interrogation. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 18 Mar 81 p 6]

BIO-GAS PLANT COMMISSIONED--First bio-gas plant to generate electricity was successfully commissioned here at a simple ceremony at the Moosani Poultry Farm about 19 miles off Karachi. The technology to produce electricity by running engine and generator on bio-gas was developed by the Appropriate Technology Development Organisation (ATDO)--an establishment of the Federal Government.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 28 Mar 81 p 5]

TURBINE POWER--Karachi, March 21--The water and power development authority will be able to transmit the bulk of power generated at Tarbela Power House to the south, particularly the interior of Sind and Baluchistan with the completion of the last phase of Asia's first 500 kv transmission line from Guddu to Jamshoro by 1983, WAPDA sources said here. The second phase which was inaugurated recently involved erection of a tower for the 519-kilometer long extra high voltage transmission line and two 500 kv/220 kv grid station at Multan and Guddu. These grid stations will initially operate on 220 kv but after installation of various power units, these grid stations will operate on 500 k.v.--APP [Text] [Quetta BALUCHISTAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 81 p 1]

SMUGGLED RIFLES SEIZED--Peshawar, April 5--Frontier Constabulary has seized 14 rifles being smuggled from Darra Adam Khel to Peshawar in a truck. According to police sources one accused Mir Wali was arrested and the truck was impounded. Meanwhile, the police has recovered a Stengun, a pistol and some spare parts of arms from one Bakhtiargul in Dubji area and four pistols in West Hashtnagri and Badber police station areas. The accused have been apprehended.--APP [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 6 Apr 81 p 1]

CSO: 4220

PLOT TO AID ANTI-INDONESIAN GUERRILLAS UNCOVERED

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 20 Mar 81 p 3

[Text] Port Moresby (AAP)--Criminal charges may be laid over an alleged plot to organise a shipment of arms through Papua New Guinea to anti-Indonesian guerrillas in Irian Jaya.

The PNG National Security Advisory Committee chairman, Mr Frederick Rether, said yesterday that, following police raids on three houses on Tuesday night, legal officers had begun to work on possible charges. But there had been no arrests.

The government yesterday confirmed details of its intelligence coup, following press reports on raids that apparently uncovered a plot to get arms for members of OPM, the Irian Jaya guerrilla movement opposed to Indonesia.

Mr Rether confirmed the security raids on "certain houses in Port Moresby and Madang" and confirmed that the raids had uncovered a letter which asked a "Mr George" in Turkey to urge Russia to back the OPM.

The letter was returned to Port Moresby from Turkey when "Mr George" failed to pick it up.

"We really need weapons to be smuggled," the letter said. "We are certain that the victory is on our side sooner or later.

"Please urge Moscow to support us. Mandate is granted to you to act on our behalf."

CSO: 4220

ACTION ORDERED AGAINST DAVAO RIGHTISTS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Maj Gen Fidel V. Ramos, PC chief, ordered yesterday aggressive actions by the PC against an armed band blamed for the rash of killings that has swept the mountain communities of Davao City since early last month.

Reports reaching Camp Crame said at least 100 killings have been attributed in the past weeks to the "Reformists," reportedly a group of former soldiers opposed to the New People's Army movement in the Davao area.

A report by Davao City Mayor Luis T. Santos said most of the victims were either innocent civilians and others suspected of having ties with the NPA terrorists.

One of the recent operations of the "Reformists," reports said, was a raid on three Davao city barangays--Salaysay, Marilag and Facuna--where 15 civilians were killed. Residents of the three barangays have since then deserted their homes for fear.

In a directive issued to Brig Gen Buenaventura Casenas, Region II PC commander, and Lt Col Willie Cruz, Davao del Sur PC commander, Ramos ordered the local PC authorities to curb the violent operations of the "Reformists."

Mounting complaints have been noted lately, mostly from civic-minded groups and the religious community against the continued predations of the armed band.

In a recent multi-sectoral conference in the City, temporary measures have been adopted such as:

- Setting up of a PC detachment in Calinan district, the most critical area.
- Disarming by the PC of members of the "Reformist" group.
- Investigation of the killings attributed to the "Reformists."

So far the nature and objectives of the armed group, believed led by one Kumander Alitaptap an ex-soldier, have not been fully ascertained.

CSO: 4220

CZECHOSLOVAKIA OFFERS CREDIT TO TEXTILE MANUFACTURERS

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 20 Mar 81 p 10

[Text] Czechoslovakia, a traditional exporter of textile machineries and equipment, is offering local textile mills financing--via supplier's credit--or expansion and modernization.

It is also offering technical assistance in the form of after-sales service for equipment sold, and training of technical personnel.

A statement from the Czechoslovakian ambassador said his country has much to offer to the local textile industry considering that many of the advanced technologies in textile machinery manufacture have been developed by Czechoslovak Research Institutes and Textile Machinery Manufacturers.

Its machines are among the best in their respective categories and guarantee very high product quality standards, the statement claimed.

Based on the government guidelines on the textile modernization program, Czechoslovakia feels it can meet requirements including financing, technical expertise, and constant spare parts supply.

According to the embassy, Investa Ltd., a Czechoslovak firm, can grant suppliers credit with annual interest rate of between 8 and 10 percent, from five to 10 years.

In case of a turnkey project, credit would cover all machineries--both Czechoslovak and other brands, it said.

A number of textile mills are using Czechoslovak machineries. A constant supply of spare parts for these machines is assured because the company has a spare parts warehouse in Hongkong which services the requirements in the Southeast Asia region.

If the Philippine government decides to tap Czechoslovakia for the textile program, it will set up a stock warehouse in the country to further improve its after-sales service, the embassy said.

In addition to this, it will train technical personnel for their jobs. A team of experts will also be sent here for training and maintenance jobs.

Czechoslovakia has also offered to help identify buyers of textile products.

Czechoslovakia joins the German Democratic Republic, Korea, Spain and other foreigners interested in participating in the textile modernization.

CSO: 4220

PRESIDENT PUSHES WIDER USE OF GASIFIERS

Manila PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 22 Mar 81 pp 1,6

[Text] President Marcos ordered yesterday that P10 million be set aside as seed capital for a government company that will mass-produce gasifiers for motor vehicles, irrigation pumps, power generators, and other gasoline-fed engines.

The President also directed lending companies to set up a program for those who may wish to convert to gasifiers, and ordered an interagency committee to promote the use of gasifiers.

These steps were taken by the President after a demonstration of a vehicle with a combustion engine that runs on hydrogen gas, with the use of gasifier, a device that does not require the use of gasoline.

It was pointed out that a wide application of the device could save the country millions of pesos in imported oil and reduce motoring costs by 75 percent.

The President drove the test vehicle around the Malacanang grounds with the First Lady, Imelda R. Marcos, as one of the passengers.

The gasifier, developed by Filipino experts over the past few months, produces gas from charcoal by introducing the use of steam to form a combustible mixture for gasoline and diesel engines

Commodore Alfredo Protacio, head of the project, Sta. Barbara under the Office of the President, said he has not heard of a similar breakthrough anywhere in the world.

The first test vehicle was presented to the First Couple last Feb. 14 "but that was crude compared to the one tested by the President yesterday," Protacio said.

Protacio said that the process starts when a bed of red-hot charcoal is injected with steam. The steam splits into hydrogen and oxygen. The oxygen then reacts with the carbon in the charcoal to produce carbon monoxide which passes through the gas lines, and upon reaching the engine combines with air from the carburetor to form a combustible mixture. With the spark plugs providing the ignition, the hydrogen and the carbon monoxide burn into water and carbon dioxide.

"The combustion is complete and there is no pollution," Protacio said. For one kilogram of charcoal, add one-half liter of water and the vehicle could run from four to five kilometers under ordinary driving conditions, at speeds of 80 kph, he said.

Any kind of wood can be used for the charcoal, although coconut shells would be ideal. And with this fuel, the gasoline engine can operate as good as, if not better than with gasoline.

Producer gas from wood and charcoal had been used in the Philippines during the Japanese occupation when gasoline became scarce. But when oil became cheap and plentiful in the post-war period, the technology was shelved.

The cost of the gasifier, including a hydrogen generator, cyclone separator, primary filter, cleaner and cooler and mixing box will cost P10,000 to P12,000.

The weight of the gasifier, which could be mounted at the rear or at the middle of the vehicle, is 80 kilos, and the heat is insulated.

A vehicle running on gasoline can change to hydrogen gas by just turning a switch and vice versa.

The gasifier company, to be called Gasifier and Equipment Manufacturing Corp, will produce gasifiers for vehicles, irrigation pumps, rice drying machines, and power generators for small rural communities.

Agencies involved in the project are the Human Settlement Development Corp, Farms Systems Development Corp, National Electrification Administration, National Food Authority, National Irrigation Administration and the Development Academy of the Philippines.

CSO: 4220

CHARCOAL BRIQUETTES NEW ENERGY SOURCE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 22 Mar 81 p 36

[Text] The lowly coconut husk, a waste product of the coconut industry, may well be the much-sought new source of energy that guarantees savings from electric bills or fuels and a safe substitute to LPG or electrical stoves.

In the wake of unabated increase in cost of fuel, the coconut charcoal briquette, a product of Filipino ingenuity, promises to be the new "in" product for cooking, ironing, roasting, deodorizing and barbecue-making.

Commissioner Francisco Tamolang of the Forest Products Research and Industries Development Commission said the briquette is made out of agricultural wastes with the application of locally developed technology.

In due time, he said, the briquette will be easily accepted because it burns easily, it ignites continuously, lasts longer than ordinary charcoal, smokeless, sootless, easy to handle and more economical.

There are two kinds of charcoal briquettes that are being produced--the ordinary briquette and the wonder flame briquette.

Countryside Agro-Industrial Development Corporation (CAIDECO) has set a mass production of these briquettes.

CAIDECO officials said a bag of briquettes consisting of 100 pieces can last for at least three days for use of an average family of five to seven members. Eight to 10 pieces can cook two viads continuously for one-and-a-half to two hours, hence the family expenses for cooking is much lower than any cooking fuel.

The newly-formed 100 per cent Filipino company said that from its 32-hectare farm in Lipa city as its base, CAIDECO will expand to Quezon province for its briquette project which is anchored on the coconut industry waste products. "The use of these charcoal briquettes contributes to the country's program of employment, dollar earnings and dollar savings, and energy conservation," officials said.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

MANPOWER EXPORT--There are now 6,000 Filipinos employed in construction work in Iraq, mostly in Baghdad, and many more are coming in by the planeload every day. We expect to double this number by mid-year 1981, and maybe reach 20,000 by year's end. Though most of our construction firms are subcontractors to Japanese, Italian, French, and Finnish firms, two of our big firms, CDCP and Landoil Group, have won prime contract tenders or bids. And what does it do for our economy? In the year just passed as of Dec. 31, 1980, the total foreign exchange earnings realized from Iraq alone totalled \$300-million enough to pay our monthly consumption of oil. And if it were not for the Iraq-Iran war, it would have given 5,000 Filipino workers, skilled and non-skilled, steady jobs and our overseas internal revenue service estimated income-and withholding-taxes in the amount of \$7-million. [By Joe Viterbo] [Excerpts] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 23 Mar 81 p 7]

P10-M FOR QUEZON PROJECTS--Lucena City, Mar 21--President Marcos has ordered the release of P10 million to support the Quezon provincial government in its various infrastructure projects, standing obligations and commitments to the people of the province. The order of funding support by the President was made during his recent meeting with the Quezon provincial and national officials headed by acting Governor Eladio Caliwara and Assemblyman Medardo Tumagay at Malacananga. Two ministers of the Southern Tagalog regions namely, Minister Arturo Tanco of Agriculture and Minister Jose Leido Jr. of Natural Resources were present during the conference. During the same occasion, the President inducted into the KBL four independent mayors and officiated the pledge of support to six NP mayors in the presence of Governor Caliwara and four assemblymen namely, Godofredo Tan. Mariano Agcaoili, Cesar Villariba and Medardo Tumagay. The four independent mayors are Eleuterio Lim of Quezon, Flor Acunin of Jomalig, Roberto Jap-Diangco of Gumaca, Aniano Wagan of San Antonio, while the six NP mayors who took their pledge of support to President Marcos were, Mayor Nantes Alban of Sampaloc, Juan Oballes of Polillo, Francisco Tabuena of Patnanungan, Remy Diestro of Atimonan, Magtanggol Villabroza of Perez and lawyer Hernando Correa of Pitogo. President Marcos has also expressed confidence in the leadership of acting Governor Caliwara and urged different provincial and town officials of the province to extend to him their full support and wholehearted cooperation. [Text] [Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 22 Mar 81 p 36]

1,500 EMPLOYED IN IRAQ--A total of 1,500 Filipino workers will be sent to Iraq to work on a P2,133-billion Iraq Expressway No 1 project of the Construction and Development Corp. of the Philippines. Some 80 officials and workers are already in the Middle East country to lay the groundwork for the project. An additional 1,420 are expected to be mobilized to complete CDCP's portion of the project in 40 months. This will bring to a total of about 5,000 the number of Filipino workers fielded by CDCP in its foreign projects. The Iraq Expressway contract which CDCP signed with the Ministry of Works and Housing in Iraq, is the biggest Middle East construction contract ever awarded to a Filipino firm as a principal contractor. The proposed expressway starts from the Syrian-Jordanian border, goes eastward to Baghdad, turns southeast to Basra and finally ends at the Kuwaiti border. It runs along the route of Iraq's precious oil pipelines cutting through the rich valley bordered by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The portion covered by the CDCP contract extends from Diwaniya to Nasiraya, a 145-kilometer stretch midway between the cities of Baghdad and Basra. [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 21 Mar 81 p 2]

CSO: 4220

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

BUDGET CUT DECISION--Colombo, March 12--The Sri Lanka Government has decided to slash current year's budgetary estimates by 10 per cent all-round. All ministries have been asked to cut their estimated expenditure by 10 per cent. The Cabinet, which met yesterday and took these decisions in view of the serious financial crisis facing the island, imposed a ban on Ministries embarking on new projects up to 1983. No State corporation can undertake new capital works even with its own resources until it paid 10 per cent dividend to the Treasury. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Mar 81 p 5]

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